

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

No 2097.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1857.

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**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, TRAFALGAR SQUARE.**—NOTICE TO ARTISTS.—All Works of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, or Engraving, intended for the ensuing EXHIBITION at the ROYAL ACADEMY, must be sent in on MONDAY, the 6th, or TUESDAY, the 7th of April next, after which time no Work can possibly be received, nor can any otherwise which have already been publicly exhibited. Works received which are not Pictures and Drawings must be in gilt frames. Oil Paintings under glass, and Drawings with wide margins are inadmissible. Excessive breadth in frames as well as projecting mouldings may prevent pictures obtaining the situation they otherwise merit. The other Regulations necessary to be observed may be obtained at the Royal Academy.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Sec.

Every possible care will be taken of Works sent for exhibition, but the Royal Academy will not hold itself accountable in any case of injury or loss, nor can it undertake to pay the carriage of any package.

The prices of Works to be disposed of may be communicated to the Secretary.

**BRITISH INSTITUTION, Pall Mall.**—The GALLERY for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the WORKS of BRITISH ARTISTS, is Open Daily, from Ten till Five. Admission 1s. Catalogue 6d.

GEORGE NICOL, Secretary.

**EXHIBITION OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.** Incorporated by Royal Charter.—The Thirty-fourth Annual Exhibition of this Society is NOW OPEN from Nine a.m. until dusk. Admission 1s.

ALFRED CLINT, Honorary Secretary.

Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East.

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.**—The next Meeting for the Exhibition of Orchids, Ananas, Roses, Fruit, &c. &c. and the Election of Fellows, will be held on TUESDAY, April 7th, at Three p.m. Admission only by Fellow's personal introduction, Ivory Tickets, or Written Order. 21, Regent Street, S.W.

**ART UNION OF LONDON.**—Subscription list closes on TUESDAY next, the 31st instant. Prize-holders select from the Public Exhibitions. Every Subscriber of One Guinea will have, besides the chance of a Prize, Two Prints—"The Clemency of Ourselves," by H. C. Shenton, from the Historical Picture by John Cross, which gained the Government Premium of £300, and "The Piper," by E. Goodall, after J. Goodall, A.R.A. GEORGE GODWIN, } Honorary Secretaries.  
LEWIS POCKOCK, }  
444, West Strand, March, 1857.

**MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONTE BLANC, Bédou, Up the Rhine, and Paris,** is now OPEN every evening (except Saturday) at Eight o'clock. Stalls 3s. Area 2s. Gallery 1s. Stalls can be secured at the Box-office; Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, every day, between Eleven and Four, without any extra charge. The Morning Representations take place every Tuesday and Saturday, at Three o'clock.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.—GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL,** under the especial patronage of Her Majesty the QUEEN and H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.—THE THREE PERFORMANCES of the GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL are now definitely fixed to take place as follows, viz.:—Monday, June 15th, MESSIAH; Wednesday, June 17th, JUDAS MACCABEUS; and Friday, June 19th, ISRAEL IN EGYPT. At these performances the orchestra will consist of nearly 2,500 performers, viz., 1,000 chorists, and 300 stringed, and a due proportion of wind instruments. The entire musical arrangements are undertaken by the Sacred Harmonic Society, Extra Hall, Conductor, Mr. Costa. In answer to numerous inquiries from parties anxious to secure eligible places for hearing these performances, notice is given, that applications for tickets for places, reserved and numbered as stalls, at one guinea each for each performance, or at two guineas and a half for one place for the series of three performances, can now be received, and the places secured in numerical order, at the Crystal Palace, or by letter addressed to the Secretary there; at the Temporary Offices of the Company, 79, Lombard Street; and at the Handel Festival Ticket-office, No. 2, in Exeter Hall. N.B.—No application can be attended to unless accompanied by a remittance for the price of the places applied for. It is requested that Post Office orders be made payable to George Grove, at the General Post Office, and that cheques be made payable to the Company, and crossed Union Bank of London. Subscribers for annual season tickets for the Crystal Palace are respectfully informed that such tickets will not be available for these performances.

By Order, GEORGE GROVE, Secretary.

Crystal Palace, March 21, 1857.

**J. M. W. TURNER, R.A.—T. H. GLADWELL,** of 21, Gracechurch Street, London, now ON SALE a Fine Collection of Engravings from the best Pictures of the celebrated Artist, including Fine Proofs of "Mercury and Argus," "Trafalgar," "The Old Temeraire," and also Selections from Turner's "Annual Tour," "Southern Coast," "England and Wales," "Richmondshire," "Rogers' Italy," and "Fountains," and "Antiquities of Scotland," &c. &c.

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thorpe, the Rev. A. Golding, Vicarage, Newham, Hert; J. Pennington, Esq., Wimbledon Park, London, S.W.; J. Priestley, Esq., Albion Terrace, Sydenham Park, Kent, S.E.; Miss Pennington, Green Bank, Sedburgh, &c. &c.

The Quarter will commence on Tuesday, April 7th.

**ROYAL LITERARY FUND.**—THE 68th ANNIVERSARY DINNER of the CORPORATION will take place in FREEMASONS' HALL on TUESDAY, the 19th of May. The EARL GRANVILLE, Lord President of the Council, in the Chair. The List of Stewards will be published in future Advertisements.

OCTAVIAN BLEWITT, Secretary.

71, Great Russell-Street, March 19, 1857.

**ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION,** for the Relief of Decayed Artists, their Widows and Orphans. Instituted 1814, Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1842. Under the immediate Protection of

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The Nobility, Friends, and Subscribers are respectfully informed that the FORTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL will be celebrated in FREEMASONS' HALL, on SATURDAY next, the 4th of April.

The Right Hon. LORD DUFFERIN in the Chair.

STEWARDS.

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Dinner on Table at Six precisely.

Tickets, 41s. each, to be had of the Stewards; of Henry Wyndham Phillips, Esq., Honorary Secretary, 8, George Street, Hanover Square; and of the Assistant Secretary, 19, Great Cornam Street, Russell Square.

W. J. ROPER, Assistant Secretary.

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**LAND IN EAST SURREY.**—The Conservative Land Society have just made their Thirty-first Purchase in the picturesque neighbourhood of Nutfield, the land being about half a mile from the Redhill or Reigate station on the South Eastern line of railway. This makes the third purchase of the Society in the Eastern Division of Surrey.

**MAILS FOR SWEDEN.**—Information having been received that the Steam Ship *London*, under Contract with the Swedish Government for the conveyance of Mails between London and Gottenburg, is about to re-commence running. Mails will be made up at this Office for transmission by this vessel, on each occasion of her departure from London.

Letters forwarded by this route will be liable to the same rate of Postage as Letters sent via Ostend—viz.,  
1s. 2d. for a Letter not exceeding half-an-ounce in weight;  
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This Postage may be paid in advance, or the Letters may be sent unpaid, at the option of the senders.

Upon Newspapers a rate of One Penny must be paid in advance. The *London* is appointed to sail from London every three weeks, the first departure being on the morning of Sunday, the 29th instant, and Letters Posted up to the usual hour on the Saturday previous will be in time.

All Letters and Newspapers addressed to Gottenburg and Uddewalla, which are in this Office at the time of making up the Mail, and are not addressed to be sent otherwise, will be forwarded by the *London*; but Letters and Newspapers for other parts of Sweden, intended to be forwarded by this Vessel, must be specially addressed to "Per Steamer *London*."

By Command of the Postmaster-General,

ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.

General Post Office, March 26th, 1857.

THE LITURGICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS LIBRARY OF THE REV. DANIEL ROCK, D.D.

**MESSRS. S. LEIGH SOHBEY and JOHN WILKINSON,** Auctioneers of Literary Property and Works Illustrative of the Fine Arts, will SELL by AUCTION, at their House, 3, Wellington Street, Strand, on TUESDAY, the 7th of April, 1857, and following Day, at One o'clock precisely, THE VALUABLE LIBRARY of PATRISTIC, LITURGICAL, HISTORICAL, and MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS, formed by the Rev. DANIEL ROCK, D.D., the learned Author of "The Church of our Fathers," "Hierurgia," &c. May be Viewed on Saturday and Monday prior, and Catalogues had; if in the Country, on receipt of Two Stamps.

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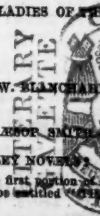
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## REVIEWS.

*Louis Napoleon, Emperor of the French. A Biography.* By James Augustus St. John. Chapman and Hall.

THERE is a venerable saying, that a man may be born in a stable without being a horse. Mr. St. John evidently does not subscribe to this ancient dogma; and he carries his faith in the contrary creed to the extremity of believing that a man has only to go into a stable to become endowed at once with all equine requisites. Thus, amongst his own qualifications for writing the life of Louis Napoleon, he mentions that he was in France when the revolution awakened the hopes of the Bonaparte family; that he lived in Switzerland at the time when Louis Napoleon lived there; that he visited Italy shortly after the failure of the expedition against the Pope; and that he was in Paris when Louis Napoleon was elected President. If to be in a country at a particular period makes an historian, then history becomes as easy as the acquisition of the German language by the process of eating a sausage. The facility, however, is accompanied by some inconvenience. That which it is competent to one man to do, may be competent to another in similar circumstances; and as there must have been a vast number of persons living in Switzerland, and likewise in Paris, when those places were honoured with the presence of the Prince, we may apprehend an inundation of volumes such as that now before us. Against this danger, however, we are in some degree protected by the sagacity of the publishers, who are not likely to flood the market, on their own risk at least, with a class of books of which most readers have already had more than enough.

Mr. St. John does himself injustice in not laying his claims to confidence on higher grounds than those to which we have alluded. He is an experienced writer, has long been a political essayist, and notwithstanding certain fits of eccentricity to which he is subject, especially whenever any speculations touching the beautiful, either in the abstract or the concrete, happen to turn up, he possesses the power of treating most topics he undertakes in an agreeable manner. But it is to be regretted that he should have ventured upon this particular subject. In the first place, the time has not arrived when the life of Louis Napoleon ought to be written; and in the second place it is wholly impossible to write it at the present moment, without exaggeration or suppression, or both. Mr. St. John assures us that he has aimed at being "at once frank and conscientious." Even in France, he says, he hopes it will be allowed by temperate politicians that he has drawn "a faithful picture" of the Emperor, and that he has "described honestly and without prejudice the circumstances which have placed him where he is." Most men who compile books of this kind assert a similar title to independence and integrity. It is one of the delusions under which multitudes of public writers labour. They have a keen eye for notes elsewhere; but cannot always see beams at home. Yet it requires little knowledge of bygone or passing events to enable us to discern why it is that no man, be his political predilections what they may, can at this time produce a dispassionate and satisfactory biography of the Emperor of the French; and Mr. St. John has no great occasion to be discouraged

if he has failed where nobody else could have succeeded.

The early chapters of the biography, relating to Queen Hortense and the youth of Louis Napoleon, will surprise all readers who happen to be acquainted with the career of Josephine's beautiful daughter; and who is not acquainted with it, more or less? Mr. St. John may not be aware that materials were recently collected for a biography of Queen Hortense, and that the design was abandoned in consequence of the nature of the facts they disclosed; but surely in the French memoirs to which he has himself had access, untrustworthy even as most of them are that relate to the Beauharnais family, he must have discovered reasons which should have induced him to pass briefly over the character and actions of Queen Hortense. He has, nevertheless, made her the most conspicuous figure in two of the three tableaux of which the work is composed. Attracted, doubtless, by the tradition of her personal fascinations, he carries her through nearly two-thirds of the volume as the prominent personage in the drama. This is a grave error of judgment in a biographer who desires it to be understood that he is "at once frank and conscientious." The dilemma upon the horns of which Mr. St. John complacently hangs himself up is so obvious that we need not point it out.

When Louis Napoleon was born (in Paris in 1808), Queen Hortense was living apart from her husband, Louis Bonaparte, then occupying the throne of Holland. It seems, even according to this biography, that Hortense despised her husband, and bestowed all her admiration on the Emperor; that while she resided in Holland, she lived in a circle of vanity and frivolity, which principally occupied itself in ridiculing the modes and manners of the Dutch, whose good opinion her husband, more wisely, tried to conciliate; that under pretence of ill-health, she left the Hague for better air at a secluded château, and from thence effected her escape, and "fled to be near the Emperor in Paris." This is an ominous opening; but Hortense was lovely, and her life was a romance (of her own making), and the gallantry of the biographer suggests a thousand excuses for raising her into a heroine. Here is her portrait as drawn by Mr. St. John:—

"Hortense was a woman in all respects remarkable,—beautiful in person, in organisation peculiarly delicate, feeble in health, flexible in principles; she yet, when a persuasion had once been adopted, displayed so much tenacity of purpose as to expose her all her life to the charge of obstinacy. In courage, whether active or passive, she was indomitable. To the unfortunate she was kind and generous, strongly affectionate in her friendships, and towards her children, tender, gentle, and full of solicitude."

Small facts are next collected. She had a "peculiar" physical constitution. She was liable to excruciating headaches, which made her so cold that she was always desirous of a bed-room with a southern aspect; and whenever she was put into a room looking towards the north, "she used to bewail herself with extraordinary pathos!" At St. Leu, she frequently drove out in a *char-à-banc*, "resembling," we are informed, "the Irish jaunting car." In the evenings visitors assembled in the drawing-rooms, and passed their time in "harmless amusements." The children were put to bed with inflexible regularity at a certain hour, of which remarkable fact we have some illustrative anecdotes. Hortense dined almost daily at the Tuileries

with Napoleon, who was so particular about his dinner hour, that his beautiful guest would go with her hair half dressed rather than be a moment late. In vain her *violet-de-chambre* remonstrated: "Never mind," she used to say, "how my hair is done; only be quick, that I may be at the Tuileries in time." The simplicity and good faith with which such matters as these are chronicled will occasionally excite a smile. "It may be worth mentioning," says the author in another place, "though the fact does not bear on Louis Napoleon, that his mother was extremely fond of violets;" and elsewhere, speaking of her attachment to her children, she is described as a "domestic providence" watching over them. Passing on to the overthrow of Napoleon, and the return of the Bourbons, we come to that curious and memorable passage in the life of this exemplary mother which brings the Emperor Alexander on the stage. We will not pursue the subject further than to glance at it as it is exhibited in these courtly pages:—

"It would be beside my purpose to describe the intercourse between the Emperor Alexander and Queen Hortense. The politics and the gaieties of Paris ceased to have any charm for him; he was perpetually at Malmaison; conversations with Josephine, with Eugène Beauharnais, with the children, now appeared to possess for him irresistible attractions. His mind, it was evident, had been thrown into a state of impassioned effervescence, such as he had once before experienced under the potent influence of Madame de Krudener."

The children being told that the Emperor of Russia, whom they were in the habit of seeing daily, was a generous enemy who desired to be of service to them, "as well as to their mamma," declared that they "must love him;" and Prince Louis, the next time Alexander came, approached him on tiptoe, and, slipping into his hand a signet-ring which had been given to him by his uncle Eugène, ran away. The reason he assigned for making this gift to the Emperor was "because he was good to mamma." Alexander embraced the boy, and, attaching the ring to his bunch of seals, said, "with emotion, that he would wear it for ever." These are strange reminiscences to disinter at this time; and Mr. St. John's mode of presenting them through a narrative too hazy to permit us to see anything very clearly in this part of the history, does not diminish our objection to their reproduction. We should have had either a full exposition of the mysteries of St. Leu and Malmaison; or they should have been passed over in judicious and significant silence.

As we approach the political division of the subject, which opens with the revolution of 1848, and conducts us over the *coup d'état* to the empire, the work acquires another and a healthier kind of interest. The sketches of Lamartine and his colleagues, rather grandiloquently called the Founders of the Republic, are vivid, and marked by a keen discrimination of character; and the history of the Presidency, and the means which were taken to sap and destroy the Republic, contains in a brief compass all particulars essential to a complete survey of the crisis, related with moderation and impartiality. It is to be regretted that this portion of the biography is so short, and that the author, carried away by the seductions of Queen Hortense, should have given so much space to the trivial and apocryphal, and so little to the only part of Louis Napoleon's career with which the world cares to trouble itself.

The spirit in which these topics are treated may be indicated by one or two of the most striking passages. The following refers to the election of Louis Napoleon to the Presidency. He had just taken a solemn oath to administer faithfully the government which the people had entrusted to his hands:—

"Here, then, had Louis Napoleon been possessed by an honourable ambition, was the point to have arrived at which should have satisfied him. France was in possession of a free constitution, imperfect no doubt, but the imperfections it had might have been gradually removed. He was now the first magistrate of a great nation, and stood at the head of a government, the principles of which he had all his life professed to reverence. No position could be more proud. The fame of Washington was within his reach; the firm resolution to be honest and to fulfil the duties he had undertaken would have linked his name for ever to the cause of freedom, and have entitled him to the respect of all future times.

"But the Bonaparte taint was in his blood, and the Bonaparte immorality in his mind. To be within reach of a sceptre, and not to grasp at it, no matter by what means, was a pitch of virtue, the possibility of which he could not conceive."

At the very instant when the President swore to preserve the republic, the treason which subverted it was, in Mr. St. John's opinion, shaping itself in his thoughts:—

"From the moment of his election, Louis Napoleon, it cannot be doubted, began to plot against the Republic, to tamper with the fidelity and corrupt the discipline of the army, to purchase partisans, and to take all practicable measures for building up his own fortunes upon the ruins of the state."

A little farther on he says, that "they who take the most favourable view of Louis Napoleon's proceedings at this time, virtually admit that it was never his intention to keep the oath he swore to the Republic." If the people had exercised ordinary sagacity in looking back upon the antecedents of the Prince, they might have easily foreseen the issues that must have inevitably followed his election. His destiny—a word of no light import with him—was the throne of his uncle. Ten thousand oaths could not have barred his passage to that consummation, once the people placed the executive in any form in his hands.

Mr. St. John's estimate of Louis Napoleon's character is unfavourable, but although expressed in strong terms, it does not transgress the fair bounds of historical disquisition. He maintains that the Emperor springs from a bad stock; that he has no sympathy with free institutions; that his leanings are dynastic; that by professing faith in his star, he has provided himself beforehand with an excuse for any crimes he may commit; and that, consequently, the citizens of a free country cannot be too much on their guard against such a man. Examining his pretensions from different points of view, the biographer pronounces the following judgment on Louis Napoleon's writings:—

"The study of his letters, speeches, proclamations, manifestoes, while creating a highly favourable opinion of his skill and abilities, must at the same time convince us of the entire want of high principle in his mind. He excels in short, terse, vigorous compositions, but appears to be soon exhausted, and to pause for want of materials. This is the reason why his books are inferior. He has no fixed principles or opinions, and his thoughts refuse to assume any settled form. When he is desirous of putting his hand upon them, they glide away like globules of quicksilver, enlarging, diminishing, agglomerating, separating, in obedience

to some law which regulates irresistibly the creations of his mind."

The moral to be drawn from this, glancing at existing circumstances, is contained in the next few lines:—

"If this be a true picture of the man, it must obviously be impossible to reckon very confidently on the stability of an alliance with him. His political principles are the antipodes of ours. Looking at the condition of Europe, he may for some time discover reasons for preferring the friendship of England to that of any other state; but if the history of modern times teach any particular lesson, it is, I think, this, that no continental power, and least of all France, has any very cordial attachment for England."

As prophecies are said to produce their own fulfilment sometimes, so the frequent repetition of this current phrase, that England is hated throughout Europe, is not at all unlikely to lead to the ultimate diffusion of such a sentiment, whether it really exist or not at present. Assuredly it is neither wise nor patriotic to adopt a cant of this description, not merely because its adoption gives more or less vitality to the evil it points out, but because it is in itself an exceedingly vague, senseless, and mischievous assertion. Why should there be no cordial attachment for England amongst the powers of Europe? There must be a reason for it, if it be true. Let us have the reason, so that we may see and comprehend the nature of the aversion or distrust with which we are regarded. But whatever it may be, presuming it to be at all, it is obvious that the reason for which we are disliked in one direction, must be the best of all possible reasons why we should be liked in another. Do the despotic governments hate us? Probably. Have we not a right to infer, that on the same grounds the people who are oppressed by them look to us with hope and confidence? If we are hated for our liberty by despots, it is only reasonable to assume that we are respected for our liberty by their subjects.

*Ancient Poems, Ballads, and Songs of the Peasantry of England, taken down from Oral Recitation, and Transcribed from Private Manuscripts and Scarce Publications.* Edited by Robert Bell. John W. Parker and Son.

THIS is one of the most attractive volumes which Mr. Bell has yet brought out. There is something indescribably racy in these popular lyrics, which have been handed down from generation to generation among the simple peasantry. The fact that they have escaped oblivion without the aid of the printing-press is, in itself, a proof that they have in them a more than ordinary vitality—a power of awakening the imagination, and of impressing themselves on the memory. This power is more easily felt than analysed. But it appears to us to consist partly in the simplicity and universality of the emotions to which they appeal, and partly in their felt reality and picturesqueness.

They appeal to tastes and feelings in which all more or less participate. For instance, there are few men who do not like conviviality in some shape or other, but the 'Harvest Home' and the 'Barley Mow' songs breathe the very spirit of unmixed joviality. Sporting is a passion with most Englishmen, and "bread eaten in secret" is proverbially "sweet;" we can all, therefore, enter with hearty good will into the humour of the 'Lincolnshire Poacher,' and the 'Thornehag-

Moor Woods." Satires on the clergy are generally read with gusto. Old politics, whether of the Cavalier or Roundhead stamp, the dangers of the seas, the pleasures of farming, are topics from which the rustic minstrel delighted to draw his inspiration, and in which all Englishmen are more or less interested. But the grand *pièce de resistance* is, of course, the universal passion, and that treated in its simplest and most intelligible form. Here are no transcendental flights. The lover's object is simply to obtain his mistress. The ordinary circumstance of inequality of rank and fortune, which is a great favourite, does not make the feeling too complicated for common mortals: it serves, on the contrary, only to prove the irresistible power of love, a fact of which we are all convinced. The dallying on mossy banks, squeezing hands, and kissing at garden-gates, are things that enter into every one's experience, and never fail to awaken an interest in every heart.

The picturesqueness and felt reality of these popular lyrics is another peculiar merit. They were composed, for we cannot say written, by men who had no idea of art, and who knew nothing of books. The whole art of the village minstrel, if he were of the true stamp, consisted in giving simple expression to his own feelings. His book was nature. His native plains or mountains, and the little society of the village, with its manor-house, its market, its holiday dance, its church and churchyard, its busy every-day life, sometimes chequered by some deep tragedy, but always abounding in comic scenes for him who was endued with the poetic vision to see them—these supplied him with his incidents and illustrations. With a limited but expressive vocabulary, and always under the necessity of making his song short, he had to go straight to his point. A picture was to be painted in a single word, and a whole cycle of feeling awakened by some covert allusion, so slight that we are sometimes doubtful whether it was intentional. Hence the popular lyric is always concentrated. It never wearies with namby-pamby sentiment, or spoils a good idea by tedious *verbiage*.

Of these truly national effusions of the Saxon Muse we have several collections. Ritson rescued many of them from oblivion; and some may be found scattered in publications of less pretension, but generally horribly mutilated by modern "improvements." Many, however, still remained, printed only on the memory of old people in remote districts, when Mr. James Henry Dixon began to collect them. The sources from whence he drew were the way-side inn, the dwellings of the yeomanry, and their rural festivals and merry-makings. From the vast stores which he had thus brought together he made a selection, which he edited for the Percy Society. But this volume was brought out in great haste; and Mr. Dixon's maturer judgment suggested to him that he had admitted some pieces which had better have been left out, and omitted others which well deserved a place in the collection. For the present volume he has placed at Mr. Bell's disposal the results of his ripper experience, and the stores of old broadsides and notes taken from oral tradition which it has been the business of his life to collect. It contains, therefore, besides more correct versions of songs which have been published before, many lyrics of great interest never before edited, or even perhaps written out.



The volume opens with several moral poems, bearing such titles as *The Plain-Dealing Man*, *The Vanities of Life*, *Smoking Spiritualized*, and *The Midnight Messenger*. These are interesting as showing the thoughtful character of our peasantry, upon whose shelves 'The Pilgrim's Progress' and 'The Whole Duty of Man' are not seldom to be found. Among the ballads which follow, Lord Delaware, *The Keach i' the Creel*, of which we remember hearing a version sung in our boyhood, and *The Felon Sewe of Rokeby*, struck us as being particularly good. This last, in an inferior version, had already been published by Whittaker, when Sir Walter Scott printed it in his introduction to *Rokeby*. But we pass on to the songs. Some of these have been printed before, but are scattered through various old books not now easily attainable; others are transcribed by Mr. Dixon from the original broadsides; while others have been taken down from recitation. The following has, we believe, been included in some modern collections, but it is so spirited that we must quote it as a good example of the picturesque character of these compositions. It is called *The Rural Dance about the May-Pole* :—

"Come, lasses and lads, take leave of your dads,  
And away to the May-pole ho;  
For every he has got him a she,  
And the minstrel's standing by;  
For Willie has gotten his Jill,  
And Johnny has got his Joan,  
To jig it, jig it, jig it,  
Jig it up and down.

"Strike up," says Wat; "Agreed," says Kate,  
'And, I prithee, fiddler, play;  
'Content,' says Hodge, and so says Madge,  
'For this is a holiday.'  
Then every man did put  
His hat off to his lass,  
And every girl did curtsy,  
Curtsy, curtsy on the grass.

"Begin," says Hall; 'Aye, aye,' says Mall,  
'We'll lead up *Fackington's Pound*;  
'No, no,' says Noll, and so says Doll,  
'We'll first have *Sellenger's Round*.  
Then every man began  
To foot it round about;  
And every girl did jet it  
Jet it, jet it, in and out.

"You're out," says Dick; "'Tis a lie," says Nick,  
'The fiddler played it false';  
'Tis true,' says Hugh, and so says Sue,  
And so says nimble Alice.  
The fiddler then began  
To play the tune again;  
And every girl did trip it, trip it,  
Trip it to the men.

"Let's kiss," says Jane; 'Content,' says Nan,  
And so says every she;  
'How many?' says Batt; 'Why three,' says Matt,  
'For that's a maiden's fee.'  
But they, instead of three,  
Did give them half a score,  
And they in kindness gave 'em, gave 'em,  
Gave 'em as many more."

In strong contrast with this spirited land-song is a no less spirited sea-song, called *The Spanish Ladies*. Jack is supposed to be under orders to "sail for old England," and the first idea which very naturally presents itself to his mind is that "from Ushant to Scilly is thirty-five leagues." Having declared next that he will, "like a true British hero," "rant and roar across the salt seas," his imagination gets so far the better of him that he imagines the whole voyage performed, and speaks in the preterite tense during the remainder of his "fine frenzy." The well-known points which successively come in sight on the homeward voyage rise up before his imagination, and are duly chronicled from "the Deadman" to the "South Foreland." With the immediate prospect of sleeping in the Downs, he exclaims to his messmates :—

"Then stand by your stoppers, let go your shank painters,  
Haul all your clew-garnets, stick out tacks and sheets."

The conclusion is truly simple and nautical :—

"We'll drink and be jolly, and drown melancholy,  
So here's a good health to all true-hearted souls."

We have an affection for this genuine inspiration of the fo'castle, from having once heard it given, in truly sailor-like fashion, by a gallant Admiral who is equally distinguished for his scientific acquirements and his social qualities. On that occasion, what with the characteristic words, the doleful minor air, and the singer's imperturbable gravity, we never saw "melancholy" more effectually "drowned." We must observe, however, that the gallant Admiral, who is a distinguished practical geographer, read "Dodman" where Mr. Bell reads "Deadman." Now we do not know the promontory in question; but in nautical phraseology "Dodman" means a snail, to which this cape or promontory perhaps bears some resemblance. We should therefore be disposed to prefer the Admiral's version. It is a question which, in the interests of geographical science, ought to be set at rest.

Among many songs now for the first time edited, are new, or rather truly old versions of some that are already well known. We have never before seen the following excellent verse of Begone, dull Care. The editor says it was taken down from the recitation of "an old Yorkshire yeoman" :—

"Hence, dull Care,  
I'll none of thy company;  
Hence, dull Care,  
Thou art no pair for me,  
We'll hunt the wild boar through the wold,  
So merrily pass the day,  
And then at night, o'er a cheerful bowl,  
We'll drive dull Care away."

One of the most interesting of the new acquisitions to our lyrical poetry is that entitled *The sweet Nightingale*; or, *Down in those Valleys below*. It is an ancient Cornish song, said to be a translation from the British. It certainly breathes the spirit of soft and effeminate voluptuousness, which characterizes all that remains to us of the poetry of the Cymri. "We first heard it," says the editor, "in the pleasure-gardens of the Marienberg, on the Moselle. The singers were four Cornish miners, who were at that time, 1854, employed at some lead mines near the town of Zell."

"My sweetheart, come along!  
Don't you hear the fond song,  
The sweet notes of the nightingale flow?  
Don't you hear the fond tale  
Of the sweet nightingale,  
As she sings in those valleys below?

So be not afraid  
To walk in the shade,  
Nor yet in those valleys below.

"Pretty Betsy, don't fail,  
For I'll carry your pail  
Safe home to your cot as we go;  
You shall hear the fond tale  
Of the sweet nightingale,  
As she sings in those valleys below."  
But she was afraid  
To walk in the shade,  
To walk in those valleys below.

"This couple agreed;  
They were married with speed,  
And soon to the church they did go.  
She was no more afraid  
For to walk in the shade,  
Nor yet in those valleys below;  
Nor to hear the fond tale  
Of the sweet nightingale,  
As she sung in those valleys below."

We would gladly, if space would permit, extract the admirable song entitled *The Wooing Song of a Yeoman of Kent's Sonne*. Equally good are *The Yorkshire Horse-Dealer*, and *Old Witchet and his Wife*. These are extremely humorous, and are excellent specimens of the dialects of the several counties in which they are indigenous.

Amongst the political songs the most curious is *George Ridler's Oven*, an old cavalier and tory ditty, which has long been the initiatory song of the Gloucestershire Society at their annual meetings at the Thatched House. The late Duke of Beaufort, as the editor informs us, was celebrated for the spirit with which he used to lead off the glee upon those occasions. In all these there is the genuine smack of antiquity, that almost puerile exoteric meaning, which is intended to convey some vague and indefinite impression, appropriate, however, to the general object of the song, or some political maxim which it would be dangerous to enunciate with greater plainness. We much question whether our present social system could produce such lyrics as some of these; and we should look upon their loss to our literature as a calamity equal to that to art in losing the *Soulagés Collection*.

*Introduction to Cryptogamic Botany.* By the Rev. M. J. Berkeley, M.A., F.L.S. H. Baillière.

Among the most distinguished of British cryptogamists, and holding the very first rank as a mycologist, stands, and has for many years stood, prominently forth the name of the Rev. M. J. Berkeley, of King's Cliffe. The publications of this gentleman on the structure and classification of the fungi are too extensively known and too highly valued by British botanists to require any enumeration or comment at our hands. We allude to them merely for the purpose of proving that any work emanating from his pen is, on account of his well-earned reputation alone, sure at once to command the attention of every student of botany, and especially of cryptogamic botany, in these realms. The department of botanical science which the author has selected as the subject of this work is precisely one which has long stood in need of a master-mind philosophically to elucidate and expound it. From the minute size of the objects of research—their extremely protean nature—the frequent multiplicity of the reproductive organs—the absolute necessity of invoking the assistance of optical instruments in their investigation—the perseverance and patience requisite for the proper pursuit of the study, and the unsatisfactory state of the literature of the subject, there have been comparatively few students of cryptogamic botany in this country. Until within a recent period, the science of cryptogamic botany has been involved in much obscurity, and its study surrounded with many difficulties. It has been avoided by the generality of botanists; and its investigation has been almost entirely left to a few plodding, determined observers, by whose indefatigable exertions it has been raised from the position of a perfect chaos of doubts and difficulties to that of one of the most beautiful and interesting departments of botanical science. It is only indeed of late years that the microscope has enabled us properly to investigate the minute anatomy of the Cryptogamia, and, from an intimate knowledge thereof, to arrive at philosophical and broad views of their classification and affinities.

This 'Introduction to Cryptogamic Botany' supplies a want which we have long felt, and which must have been felt, for many years, by every British student of botany. We know of no work, British or foreign, which can compete with it. In our own language there is no manual descriptive of the



structure and classification of cryptogamic plants, bringing down our knowledge thereupon to the present day. The only work indeed of the kind is a translation of Sprengel's well-known 'Introduction to the Study of Cryptogamic Plants,' the last edition of which bears date so long ago as 1819. This work, however admirable it may have been at the time of its publication, is quite unsuitable for the purposes of the student or botanist now, filled as it is with crude ideas and exploded theories. Nor do any of the foreign hand-books of cryptogamic botany come up to our idea of the requirements of the age; and even if they did, we should infinitely prefer, *cat. par.*, an original work by a British botanist of acknowledged eminence to a mere translation. Works on general botany give most meagre, and not unfrequently imperfect and erroneous accounts of the structure and affinities of the Cryptogamia: and the monographs and papers of writers on special departments of cryptogamic botany are scattered through such a multiplicity of journals—home and foreign—that it is quite impossible for the student to gain access to them all, unless at an enormous expense both of time and money.

The work before us is distinguished by the broad and philosophical views which the author takes of the affinities of the various families of the Cryptogamia. Though chiefly eminent as a mycologist, it is evident that Mr. Berkeley has not confined his attention exclusively to the fungi. We have long been of opinion that monographers labour too exclusively in their own particular fields to arrive at philosophically scientific conclusions, to deduce beautiful generalizations and laws. Specialists are too apt to take one-sided, and hence erroneous, views. We firmly believe, and confidently assert, that he only can be a philosophical mycologist, for instance, who is acquainted, at the same time, with the structure of the lichens, while the scientific lichenologist must have studied the anatomy and affinities of the algae and fungi. The author maintains a high scientific tone throughout the volume; he does not intend it for the mere tyro in botany, still less does he send it forth as claiming to be a 'popular' work, using this much-abused word 'popular' in the ordinary or conventional sense of the term. We confess our belief that there is no 'royal road' to knowledge, and especially to scientific knowledge—that there is no way so to popularize science as to avoid the necessity of mastering the details, at least of its elements or general features; and that, in short, there is nothing for the student but persevering and hard study. The publication of many of the pseudo-scientific and pseudo-popular works of the day, we think, not only degrades science, but bestows the reverse of a benefit on the student: works copiously illustrated by plates, whose accuracy cannot be trusted, and which are, at best, second-hand—works whose descriptions, from the use of non-technical language, are utterly vague and unsatisfactory—works which, while they may be suitable enough for exhibition on the drawing-room table, are but ill adapted for the closet or the field. The value of Mr. Berkeley's work is enhanced by the large amount of original matter which it contains. It does not, however, consist merely of details of structure and classification: under the heads of the different families, important particulars regarding their economical applications and geographical distribution are given. Great credit is due to the

author for the illustrations, which are 127 in number, and all drawn by himself. We are of opinion, however, that ordinary woodcuts are not so well suited for the delineation of the delicate organs and minute anatomy of the Cryptogamia as some other kinds of engraving. Let the reader compare, for example, the wood engravings in this work with the plates of the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles,' or even of our own 'Journal of Microscopical Science,' and he will at once see what we mean. Appended to the volume is a most useful bibliography of works on the various branches of cryptogamic botany.

The author's advocacy of the advantages accruing to the student from the study of cryptogamic botany is so good that we cannot resist giving a few citations.—

"It has often, indeed, been objected that so much credit is not to be obtained in the pursuit of this branch of botany as in the investigation of the more highly organized vegetables; and some of the first cryptogamists of our day have felt this so strongly that they have even been in a great measure diverted from their original pursuits by such a notion." (p. 19.)

"If variety and delicacy of structure, beauty of form and colour, and the nicest transitions from group to group, from genus to genus, besides a host of curious questions of physiology and adaptation of means to particular ends, are worthy to engage attention, cryptogams most surely will not be amongst the most unprofitable objects of study. There will be scope, too, for the acutest powers of thought and observation, unless he is content merely to skim the surface of things. (p. 22.) The first great point is that the physiologist is able in the simpler cryptogams to study the several organs of which the higher vegetables are composed, isolated and altogether removed from other structures which may impede the view, or by their rupture cause confusion. (p. 23.) There is another point which makes the study of cryptogamic botany peculiarly interesting—viz., because so large a portion of fossil vegetation is so intimately related to some of the nobler cryptogams, and possibly exhibits far grander and more highly organized individuals than any which at the present era occur in a living state. (p. 27.) Another excellent inducement to the study of cryptogams is the fact that so many of the diseases, both of plants and animals, arise from their presence. (p. 28.) \* \* \* No student of these lower vegetables, then, need blush for his choice. His wisdom plainly is not to confine his views within a narrow prescribed limit, and, above all, not to the mere study of species, though that alone is far more imperative than numbers of pseudo-physiologists will allow." (p. 29.)

At p. 263 the author makes a passing allusion to the fungus origin of cholera. In regard to the so-called "cholera corpuscles," or "fungi," he remarks:—

"The curious point was, that bodies were really found in the dejections of cholera patients, the nature of which has not yet been determined. [?] Like the spores of bunt, and perhaps some other fungi, they were undoubtedly consumed with their food, and there is some reason to believe that they were the pollen grains of some common cichoraceous plant. Nothing, however, was ever proved beyond their existence, which perhaps did not receive all the attention it deserved, partly in consequence of their being erroneously supposed to be the spores of bunt, and partly because fragments of spiral vessels and other matters from the common aromatic confection had been mistaken for fungi."

This extract leads to the inference that Mr. Berkeley is very imperfectly acquainted with the literature of this subject. Drs. Brittan and Swayne, of Bristol, who originally announced the existence of the "cholera corpuscles" in the evacuations of cholera, fully figured and described them at the time. [See

'Med. Gazette.'] The subject was subsequently abundantly investigated by the College of Physicians of London, Professor Quirkett, of London, Professor Bennett and Dr. Robertson, of Edinburgh, and other able microscopists—all of whom published valuable reports thereon. The most recent authority, Dr. Lauder Lindsay, states that—

"The isolated, or disintegrated individual cells of the tissues above mentioned probably include many, if not most, of the 'annular bodies,' 'cholera corpuscles,' or 'fungi,' which so startled the histological and medical world during the cholera epidemic of 1848-9. At least the ultimate elements of these tissues or substances, as observed by myself, correspond in their characters to those published as delineative of the bodies in question by their original discoverers. I believe that potatoes, oatmeal, bread, and the vegetables of common broth, will furnish most of the forms of the once-famed 'annular bodies;' that they are not, therefore, fungoid in their nature or origin; and that they have no essential or causative relation to cholera. I have found them equally in other diseases—as in the stools of diarrhoea and dysentery. \* \* \* It will be evident, then, that I can see no satisfactory groundwork for the fungus-theory of cholera, which, I am not a little surprised to find, still possesses powerful advocates."

Professor Daubeny, of Oxford, has also published a most instructive paper 'On the Influence of the Lower Vegetable Organisms in the Production of Epidemic Diseases,' in the 'Edin. New Philos. Journal,' July, 1855. The idea that the cholera bodies were pollen grains, ascaris' ova, or derived from aromatic confection, as Mr. Berkeley mentions, we hold to be utterly absurd. At p. 263, he further says, "Nor do I know a single fact, the legitimate inference of which is, that they [fungi] can produce fever." In this decision we entirely concur.

To his remarks on the economical applications of the ferns might be added the recent use of the fibre of the *Pteris aquilina*—the common "bracken," or "breachan" fern, in paper making. We have lately seen specimens of paper, made on the small scale, by Captain Brown, of the *Rob Roy* steamer on Loch Katrine—who, we understand, is to continue his experiments on the bracken, as a fibre-producer, during the present summer. The author will find reference to the applications of the ferns in medicine, in a paper 'On the Medical Properties of British Ferns,' 'Phytologist,' vol. iv., p. 1062.

Had space permitted, we should have adverted, somewhat in detail, to the dualism or multiplicity of the reproductive organs in the fungi and lichens, and to the structure and functions of the *Spermogones* and *Spermatia*, *Pycnides* and *Stylospores*, *conidia*, *gonidia*, and other reproductive cellules, mentioned or described by the author. We are the less disappointed in being obliged to forego the discussion of this subject, from the conviction that it is the most difficult, obscure, and, perhaps, we might add, unsatisfactory one in the whole range of cryptogamic botany.

It only remains for us, by way of conclusion, cordially to commend the Rev. Mr. Berkeley's 'Introduction to Cryptogamic Botany' to the attention of all students of botany. We regard his work as likely to give a very marked impetus, a fresh vigour, to the study of that branch of science, and to infuse more correct and philosophical views of the structure and mode of reproduction, classification, affinities, analogies, and homologies, uses and distribution, of the several families of the Cryptogamia.

*A Journal of Two Years' Travel in Persia, Ceylon, &c.* By Robert B. M. Binning, Esq., Madras Civil Service. 2 vols. Allen and Co.

At the moment when an ambassador from Teheran has arrived in London, and when our short and sharp brush with the Persians at Bushire is likely to be followed by closer and more peaceful relations between the two countries, the journal of an Englishman's travels in Persia will be read with unusual interest. Mr. Binning's visit was made several years ago. Lady Sheil's lively book contains more recent political information, but Persia is a land which has not yet lost the charm of romance and novelty. Compared with most other countries of the East, it is difficult of access, and is rarely traversed by tourists from Europe. The books of travel in this region can be easily numbered, and we cannot yet complain of the subject being trite and exhausted. Last week we gave some account of a British sailor's voyage from Bombay to Bushire, and his cruises in the Persian Gulf; we now follow a civilian of the Company's service in his journeys from Bushire into the interior. Mr. Binning, having two years' leave on medical certificate, resolved to pass his time in travelling. After a short visit to Ceylon—his account of which does not contain matter of much importance or novelty—he had an opportunity of proceeding to Persia in one of the war steamers of the Indian navy, the *Auckland*, bound from Bombay to relieve the *Clive* sloop of war in the Persian Gulf. He embarked on the 10th October, 1850, and returned to Bombay in March, 1852.

Muscat is the first place described in the Persian journal. The Imamu, whose friendship for Great Britain has recently proved of good service, bears the reputation of being a just and humane prince, much beloved by his subjects and respected by others. He possesses a navy of twelve ships of war, and a large merchant fleet, with which he carries on a prosperous trade with all parts of the East, as far as China and the Mauritius. He holds possession of several of the islands in the Gulf, as well as two or three places on the coast of Persia. The town of Muscat has a population of about 12,000 souls. From Muscat the *Auckland* proceeded to Bushire, a place with which the English are now better acquainted. In 1850 the town was in a deplorable condition, an Arab Sheikh being then in rebellion against the Shah, and in possession of the fort, which was stormed by the English in the recent expedition. From Bushire the author travelled with a caravan to Shiraz, or Sheerauz, as he writes it, as expressing most nearly the correct pronunciation. Here he hired a house, and settled down leisurely for a time to make his observations on Persian life and manners. The reports on this subject confirm all that other travellers have alleged of the corrupt and degenerate condition of the nation. The account in this part of the journal is very similar to what is repeated in other letters written from Teheran and other places where he resided. The whole national character seems degraded to an extent that surprised one who was familiar with the worst features of Asiatic life:—

"One disagreeable feature in Persian society, is their utter disregard of the truth. In point of mendacity and deceit, the Persians surpass all people I have met with. There is no believing a single word one hears—lying and subterfuge seem

to come natural to them—and they are never at a loss for an excuse, when cross-questioned as to any thoroughly unbelievable tale. Persians of modern days are greatly changed from what their fire-worshipping predecessors were, in the time of Cyrus, when a strict adherence to veracity formed a characteristic of the nation. Modern Indians must also be not less altered from their ancestors; to whom, if we may credit Arrian, falsehood was unknown!

"Another odious feature in their character, consequent on their neglect of the virtue of truth, is their utter want of honest principle, and total insensibility to disgrace of any kind. They are exceedingly rapacious and greedy: to gain money they will sacrifice their word and honour without scruple; and they have not the least sense of shame when detected in the most nefarious actions. The most ignominious punishments do not tend to degrade a man in the eyes of his fellows, or render him less respected. He retains his station in society, and is courted and visited quite as much as if he was the most virtuous character breathing; unless it should happen that he has become the object of royal indignation, which is often the case when he has possessions well worth confiscating, and then, whether guilty or innocent, he is, as a matter of course, deserted by all his acquaintances. Any person educated in a Christian country, where principles of honour are respected and appreciated, will be astonished at the excessive meanness of which Persians of every rank and class will be guilty for the sake of gain. Meanness is indeed common to all, from the highest to the lowest; and there is no crime, no despicable act, which they will not stoop to for the sake of personal advantage."

The administration of justice is in keeping with the other national traits. In most other Mahomedan countries there is a show of equity and right kept up, even when corruption is rife. But here the Koran is rarely appealed to, and the ceremony of examining witnesses rarely employed. Every accused person is presumed to be guilty, unless by some accident or obvious proofs his innocence should appear. If a prisoner denies a charge brought against him, it a common thing for the judge to beat him till he declares himself guilty, and then he is punished accordingly. It is seldom that an inferior dares to accuse any one of superior rank or wealth; and when an offence by a rich man is flagrant, he can usually avoid punishment by privately paying a *douceur*. Among the lighter traits of the national usages, the kindness to their slaves is a feature in which they put to shame some more civilized communities. The sentence of the Koran still exerts beneficial influence, which declares, that "whosoever separates the child from the mother of a slave, shall be separated from his friends in the day of judgment." But in most other points of philanthropy, the civilization of Persia is at the lowest ebb:—

"In Sheerauz, there is no school affording instruction in any useful science—no military, mechanical, or medical college—no hospital for the sick—no asylum for the insane, blind, or aged—nor any one benevolent or useful institution whatever; and the same remark will apply to every city in Persia. Cut off from intercourse with civilized nations, the Persians deem themselves the cleverest and wisest people in the world, and learn to regard all others with contempt."

A pleasant episode in the author's sojourn at Shiraz was his visit to the tombs of Hâfiz and of Sâdeh, which are regarded with traditional veneration. The keeper of the garden which contains the tomb of Hâfiz has in his charge a large and finely written copy of his works, transcribed and placed here in Kureem Khan's time. It is a favourite custom with

the Persians to resort to the poet's works to take omens or lots, after the manner of the *sortes virgilianæ*. The copy at his tomb is supposed to have special virtue in revealing the divine will, and on various occasions its oracular responses have led to important results. Nadir Shah, the conqueror of India, is said to have repaired to the tomb of Hâfiz for the purpose of taking a *fall* or lot in the presence of his principal officers, when the following passage turned up, doubtless through the collusion of the keeper after previous arrangement:—

"It is befitting that thou shouldst exact duty from all the great ones of this world; for in truth thou art the crown and paragon of all nobility. Cathay and Tartary tremble at the glance of thy vivid eyes—China and India must pay tribute to thy curled locks."

Mr. Binning tried his fortune according to the usage, and opened at an ode, beautiful in its poetry, and in its counsels meriting being presented to any reader:—

"The season of spring has arrived: endeavour now to be merry and gay while thou art able; for the roses will bloom again and again, after thou art laid under the sod.

"I will not venture to advise thee with whom to associate, or in what way to hold revels—for all this thou well knowest, if thou art prudent and sensible.

"The harp in its lively strains will instruct thee how thou shouldst act; come! and let this admonition produce its good effect, if thou art wise.

"Cares and anxieties about worldly things wear away one's life in vain; if you suffer yourself to be harassed, night and day, with such vexatious matters.

"Behold! every green leaf thou seest in the meadow unfolds to thee a fresh volume of existence: it would be a pity that thou shouldst continue unmindful of the works of Providence.

"Though the path which leads from hence to the bosom of our eternal Friend be rugged and dangerous, still the journey is easy when one knoweth the desired goal.

"O Hâfiz! if fortune be thy helping friend, thou wilt follow no pursuit save that great Object alone."

Of other odes of the Persian Anacreon, Mr. Binning gives literal versions, and among them the well-known lines on the Nightingale and the Rose:—

"At early dawn, I walked forth into the garden to pluck a rose, when suddenly the plaintive voice of a nightingale fell on mine ear. The poor bird, like myself, was in love with the rose; and sick with the passion, warbled its complaints, filling the bowers with its song.

"I wandered through the garden and meadows, and ever and anon reflected on the position of the rose and the lovesick nightingale—for Philomel's tuneful wail had so affected my heart, that I felt excited with uncontrollable sympathy.

"The rose hath withered and turned into a mere thorn, while the poor nightingale is plunged in grief. The one fades and changes, while the other remains constant and true.

"Hâfiz! learn from this, to place no hopes of happiness on the fickle wheel of fortune—for changeable fate exhibits a thousand ill turns, and scarce a single act of kindness."

Although the memory of their great writers of other days is cherished, and although colleges abound in the chief towns, the national education is in a very miserable state. Shiraz used to be called the '*dâr-ul-ilm*,' or 'abode of science,' and it still boasts of ten colleges. But the studies are confined to Persian and Arabic, the Koran and its commentaries, theology, law, moral philosophy, and logic. History, geography, and natural philosophy are almost wholly neglected; and though



Euclid is in their hands, mathematics are but little studied. Astronomy is on the Ptolemaic system, and of chemistry they know little.

"The few attempts that have been made here, to introduce European science and enlightenment (and within the last twenty years, two such attempts, at least, have been proposed), have been frustrated by the moolahs and Seiyids, the so-called pious men, and pastors of the populace, who entertain the deepest jealousy of everything of this nature. When any such education has been offered, an outcry has forthwith been raised by these worthies, that the religion of the people is assailed, and all their interests and privileges, bodily and spiritual, subjected to imminent danger; and as they can always engage the canaille, and masses of ignorant turbulent people, on their side, they have had little difficulty in carrying their point. Some of the better informed Persians regret this circumstance; but their number is far too small to carry any weight with their prejudiced and fanatical fellow-citizens."

At Teheran there are some marks of more advanced civilization than in other towns, and the influence of the British and other European residents has not been without good effect on the people as well as the government. The discipline of the army is here also more efficiently kept, the East India Company's officers having devoted great attention to this object for political reasons. But since the influence of Russia has preponderated, the decay of the military power of Persia has again been rapid. Had the war continued, the well-disciplined Indian sepoys could have given good account of the troops they would have met:—

"The treatment of the army by the Persian government is abominable. The poor men frequently receive no pay for years together, and their rations are seldom regularly served out: on this account they are constantly obliged to rob and plunder the townsmen and villagers, like regular banditti, in order to keep body and soul together. The people all dread the troops, and hate the sight of them heartily. The officers never look after their men, neglecting their interests as completely as their drill. Their chief employment is to defraud them, embezzling as much of the poor fellows' pay and rations as they can contrive to make away with; and, in consequence, conniving at the robberies and outrages, which absolute want and hunger may induce them to commit."

Mr. Binning's whole impression of his residence in Persia is summed up as follows:—

"Persia, as far as I have seen of it, is a particularly ugly and uninteresting land. A dismal uniformity pervades the whole country, reminding me of South Africa; but there is an aspect of neglect, ruin, and misery throughout, which the Cape Colony did not manifest. Everything here seems to be crumbling to decay as fast as possible, and from its general appearance, one would suppose the unhappy land to be lying under some stupendous and overwhelming curse! Were I to draw, in a few words, a picture of Persia, from what I have seen, I should describe it as a vast dreary desert intersected with huge chains of bare, sterile mountains—the soil, in some places, bearing stunted shrubs, and in others teeming with saltpetre—here and there, at long intervals, where water is to be found, green spots with fields and habitations—the towns and villages, few and far between, consisting mostly of heaps of dismal ruins, enclosing and nearly concealing the inhabitable portion—no fine buildings to be seen, except a few old palaces and edifices falling in ruins for want of repair—the streets of the towns, narrow dusty lanes between high mud walls, which conceal any appearance of comfort and elegance which the houses and gardens within may possess—the roads through the country, mere tracks, which, in the valleys, are tolerably level and easy, and in the mountains, rugged and unsafe—the lodgings for

travellers, comfortless caravansaries, generally more or less ruined, and always more or less filthy—the people mostly civil to strangers, but not to be trusted or believed in the least particular—the climate consisting of a pleasant spring, a very hot summer, an unhealthy autumn, and a cold winter; a very dry atmosphere and clear sky; some rain in spring and autumn, none in summer, and a good deal of snow in winter."

In the prospect of diplomatic and commercial intercourse with Persia being widely extended under the new treaty with this country, Mr. Binning's remarks on the language deserve the attention of oriental students:—

"The language of educated persons at Isphahan does not differ from the dialect of Sheerauz, except in a few peculiarities of pronunciation, which is rougher and harsher; and certain idioms, which the Sheerauzes (who pride themselves greatly on their purity of speech and accent) ridicule exceedingly. The patois of the lower orders and peasantry varies more strikingly. Illiterate Persians do not generally speak badly or ungrammatically—particularly the people of the towns—for notwithstanding the respect exacted as due to rank and office, the intercourse between all ranks and classes in this country is much more free and unreserved than with us. \* \* \* The Persians are justly proud of their language, which, like French in Europe, has been adopted as the court speech and medium of correspondence of a great portion of Asia. When Mahomedan power was paramount in India, Persian was universally employed; and (as Bernier and other old travellers have informed us) among the better class of Indian Moslems, it was considered a mark of vulgarity to speak in Hindee—Persian was the only proper language of a gentleman. It is still studied by every Indian Mahomedan who makes any pretension to polite education; but it is by no means as generally used in India as formerly, and has been abolished in the courts of justice, in which it was once employed, to the exclusion of all the vernacular languages of the country."

The Persian which was formerly in use in the civil and criminal courts of India was a sad jargon, only to be equalled, says Mr. Binning, by our law Latin:—

"Correspondence is still carried on in this language among Indian Mussulmans; and strange specimens of epistolary style their letters usually are. Indians admire a tirade of servile adulation, that even to a Persian would appear fulsome and ridiculous; and the purport of the letter is nearly obscured under a cumbrous load of compliment. This style formerly prevailed in all Persian correspondence, but it has now gone out of fashion in this country."

The style of "servile adulation" has not, it seems, gone out of fashion in the communications with foreign nations, whom they at heart despise, if we may judge by the tenor of the preambles to the recent treaty drawn up at Paris by Feruk Khan and his associates.

Mr. Binning was well qualified to make the best use of his time during his travels. At Haileybury he had been a diligent student of languages, under Mirza Ibrahim, with whom he had the pleasure of renewing his acquaintance at Teheran. He had also had the advantage of having been a pupil of one of our best Oriental scholars, Dr. Duncan Forbes, of King's College, London, by whose recommendation, and with whose valuable editorial aid, his Journal is now published. His notes were not originally prepared for the press, but were sent home in the form of letters to a relative; and his book, if on that account lacking somewhat of the literary merit of a formal narrative, is all the more acceptable from conveying the freshness of impressions written down on the spot.

*A Life's Ransom. A Play. In Five Acts.*  
By Westland Marston. C. Mitchell.

WHEN a play, from lack of movement, fails to satisfy us on the stage, we may at least hope that it will reward our patience in the closet. We cannot say so much of Mr. Marston's play. The organic faults, which we briefly indicated in our notice of the performance, are palpable on perusal, and the poetical treatment is not of sufficient vigour to atone for the weakness of the design. The plot hangs heavily throughout the first three acts, and afterwards becomes hurried and transitional. The great defect is the want of a central interest. The circumstance which determines the catastrophe is not even suggested till the end of the third act, and, instead of being the mainspring of the action, it is merely an accident which occurs in the languid progress of events, and turns off the interest into a new and unexpected channel. A drama in five acts, with the pretensions Mr. Marston has an undeniable right to set up, should be constructed with a closer adherence to the principle of unity. If such a play be suffered to wander into the open region of melodrama, there is no reason why it should not emulate the erratic flights of the *Adelphi* or the *Porte St. Martin*.

Mr. Marston defends himself from the accusation brought against him by some of his critics, that his diction is "unreal," or, in other words, "unsuited to people engaged in the actual business of life." The critics who brought this charge appear to us to have fallen into an inexcusable blunder. The diction, so far from being strained or fantastical, is, for the most part, too abrupt and familiar. Sometimes, indeed, it has a strong flavour of euphuism; but it is generally as flat as any ordinary conversation put into blank verse might be expected to be. Of the occasional tendency towards imagerial excesses, here are two or three examples. In the following lines, *Revesdale*, the vacillating hero, is justifying the pride which makes him reject the good offices of his friend *Arthur Ringwood*:—

"What shield has poverty  
But pride? In happier days you knew me free  
To all of worth, as liberal of kind thoughts  
As the day of light. My disc is darkened now!—  
Let it die out, and all who gaze behold  
A void in heaven, rather than glimmer on  
By the pensioned beams of others."

There is some confusion in the function assigned to the gazers, who are required to behold a void "rather than glimmer on," &c. The intention of the sentence is perverted by its form. "Pensioned beams," and discs dying out and leaving a void, may be conceded to Mr. Marston's critics as instances of their "unreal."

Again, *Felicia's* commentary on her brother's pride:—

"Most perilous  
Is pride to noble natures!—Other sins  
Stand naked and repel; but pride doth flich  
The garb of poetry, and the flawed idol  
Shows like a god!"

This is neither good sense nor good imagery. Another example will be sufficient. In this passage *Revesdale* gives utterance to his indignation upon learning that his sister is about to degrade their ancient line by marrying *Ringwood*. It is somewhat in the *Ereclus* vein:—

"Would hurricanes had strewed  
Earth with my towers; would that the earth, aware  
To feed on pride, had gulphed them!—Wee Felicia!  
Our blood, that sprang from mountain heights of time,  
Caught the first rays of glory, and conversed  
With unstained lightning while the world was dark—  
Had fate no blast to freeze, no torrid heat  
To scorch even to its bed that stream, or e'er  
It lapsed into a sluice, and turned a mill-wheel?"



"Gulphed" should obviously be "gulfed." Earth "agape to feed," cannot be said to "gulf" the towers, there being no such word, nor, even allowing the coinage, would its meaning help us out of the difficulty. "Gulp," as applied to the act of feeding, is equally inapplicable. "Unstaled lightnings" might, perhaps, be considered the most singular expression in this passage, if it were not eclipsed by the conversation which is held with them. We know that the Herald's College can do marvellous things in the way of supplying families with pedigrees; but the antiquity claimed by *Lord Revesdale* transcends all its achievements, ascending not merely beyond the Flood, but even to primeval chaos.

But it would be exceedingly unjust to select fragments of this kind as fair samples of Mr. Marston's play. Whatever else may be alleged with reason against it, the work may be acquitted, as a whole, of the charge of fine writing. It is not so easy, however, to defend its structure, which Mr. Marston has been at some pains to vindicate in his preface.

The opening flourish of trumpets, in which the production of the piece is described as "one of that series of efforts which Mr. Charles Dillon has so gallantly and successfully made to maintain our National Drama," is a specimen of those unworthy tributes to managerial power (we will not call it by a harsher term, although it richly deserves it) by which the "national drama" is now-a-days dragged down into the abyss where parallels are worked and trap-doors unbolted. What, in the name of wonder, has Mr. Charles Dillon done to maintain the drama of this country? We have witnessed at the Lyceum a "series" of translations from the French, upon which he has mainly relied for the success of his enterprise. Are these the "gallant" efforts to which Mr. Marston alludes? Or does he refer to the burlesque on *The Corsair*, or *Our Friend from Leatherhead*, as evidences of Mr. Dillon's endeavours to support the national literature of the stage? Mr. Marston is quite justified in acknowledging his own obligations to Mr. Dillon; but when he extends the acknowledgment over the whole drama he trespasses beyond his province. It would be ludicrous in the most ignorant play-goer to talk of Mr. Dillon's efforts to maintain the national drama; but the poet who commits himself to such a panegyric, compromises something of much higher importance than his judgment. Dismissing this subject, we turn to the defence of the play.

We learn from Mr. Marston's preface, that his practice of delaying the action to a late period in the play is adopted upon principle; and in order to show that he is right, he calls the attention of his readers to the fact that there are "several distinct classes" of plays, of which he gives us three illustrations; first, the Classical Play, "in which a tragic position being given at starting, the action is chiefly internal, and consists in the gradual development of the leading idea in the minds and emotions of the agents;" the Mixed Drama, "in which the motives are primarily derived from the dispositions of the persons engaged—dispositions that chiefly produce and colour the circumstances which afterwards re-act upon their originators;" and the Drama of Incident, "in which the characters are subservient to the story, and chiefly interesting on account of the events by which they are surrounded." We obtain a simpler

definition of these three classes in the following summary of their distinctive attributes:—

"The first species of drama pre-eminently represents man under the influence of one simpler idea or condition. The second class represents man in his action on circumstances, and in his passion under its re-action. The third class represents chiefly the effect of continuous circumstances on man."

Accepting these definitions, which we may as well at once say we consider to be imperfect, we are willing to test Mr. Marston's practice by the theory he has himself set up. He claims for his plays that they belong, in common with Shakspeare's, to the second class, and that they must not be tried by laws which apply only to the other two. Divesting the argument of all mystery in the way of criticism, Mr. Marston's defence of the slow movement of the early part of his play may be reduced to a sentence—that as the interest arises from the action of man upon his circumstances, it requires time and opportunity to develop the characteristics out of the operation of which the interest is to be produced. As this may not be very clear in the form of a general proposition, we will allow the dramatist to explain it in his own words:—

"If pride, jealousy, patriotism, love, or ambition, are to be the motives of action, some time must be rendered for the distinct evolution of those qualities as a starting-point. To begin with that strong and intense pressure of events which constrains man's actions, is foreign to the nature of the ideal drama. Hence there is often, at first, a lack of very cogent motive in the circumstances of the piece, and necessarily so, because that motive has to be drawn from human sources. In such works the full tide of interest, which, perhaps, overflows its banks in the sequel, has to be traced to some spring, at first issuing calmly from the recesses of man's nature."

We will not stop to find fault with Mr. Marston's way of putting the case, but, taking it as he has put it, we confess we not only do not see the necessity of allowing time for "the evolution of qualities as a starting-point," but, on the contrary, we see some excellent reasons why no such evolutions should be admitted into the drama. The evolutions of qualities—by which is apparently meant the delineation of individual characteristics—belong legitimately to the historian, the biographer, and the novelist. The business of the drama is action. It is the stage alone that brings humanity bodily into the presence, and the work the dramatist has to do is, not to moralize humanity, but to put it into motion. There is no time upon the stage for metaphysics. Shakspeare, who is cited by our author as the greatest illustrator of the particular kind of drama of which he is speaking, never required time to "develop characteristics." He knew that his audience would not endure such a preliminary process, and, above all, that an induction of that nature was irreconcilable with the form and essence of the drama, the first elementary condition of which is that it shall reflect men in their relations to each other—a microcosm of life. Shakspeare went at once to his plot. His characters are expressly brought out in action. He never describes them when their qualities can be exhibited through the vital movement of the scenes. His plays are full of movement, and the whole story, from its source to its close, is, without, we believe, a single exception, acted before the eyes of the audience. The interest of the spectator is awakened at once by the development of the

action, not by the development of qualities; in most instances by the simultaneous development of both, the action and re-action being generally so complicated as to render them inter-dependent. But it may be confidently asserted that Shakspeare has not left us a single example of a play in which the action, or movement of the plot, is delayed for the purpose of laying its foundations in the idiosyncracies, so to speak, of the actors. This is the real point at issue, which is somewhat clouded in Mr. Marston's disquisition. Nor is his exposition of his own views always just as matter of reasoning or criticism; *ex. gr.* :—

"We argue, therefore, that it is of the last importance to the class of works we project, that time should be given to develop fully those human elements which are to produce the events of the play. We believe, with Coleridge, that expectation, not surprise, is the highest source of dramatic interest, and that, if the later stages of the play are to fulfil that expectation, the earlier scenes, by a logical necessity, must be devoted to preparing for it."

It is scarcely necessary to observe that Mr. Marston has entirely mistaken Coleridge's meaning, and that the axiom here laid down applies to plays of a wholly different order, and to sources of interest of a wholly different kind from those which Mr. Marston is discussing and vindicating in this passage.

*Little Barefoot.* By Berthold Auerbach. [Barfüesseler.] Stuttgart: Cotta.

ONE of the most noteworthy characteristics of the present age is its tendency to self-examination. It is self-conscious, introspective, continually feeling its own pulse. Its anxiety to know all about itself has created a new branch of science—statistics; and a new branch of literature—the social novel. The press, the pulpit, the platform, are continually engaged in telling it what it ought to think about itself. The very historian of the past is expected to connect his subject with the present, by means of that ingenious invention, the historical parallel. Every writer of eminence must deliver his witness touching the tendencies of the times; well and good if he can felicitate the march of intellect and enlarge upon the demerits of the dark ages; if not, the world is just as well pleased to lament over the decay of faith and feeling with all the gusto of a *malade imaginaire*. It is indeed a common weakness of mankind to make the most of trifling ailments and the least possible of serious disorders; hence, perhaps, the eagerness with which a generation in the enjoyment of unexampled material prosperity, turns to pictures of poverty it has slightly felt, and of mental struggles it has hardly experienced. One great reason of the popularity of Herr Auerbach, which seems gradually extending to this country, is his mastery over each of these subjects of description, and his ability to combine both in the same book. He draws the life of the poor with marvellous fidelity, but the living objects of his delineations are far from belonging to the class that is said to whistle for want of thought. *Little Barefoot* is always thinking of something, or, if she ever ceases, Herr Auerbach himself comes forward and occupies us with two or three pages of cogitation, until his active little heroine is rested, and ready to trudge forward once again on her serious and shoeless journey.

'*Little Barefoot*' is in fact a book of minute details of the outer life on the one hand, and

of the evolution of character on the other, and it is difficult to determine which object occupies the first place in the author's design. Little Barefoot herself, as will easily be supposed, is an orphan girl, who, from small beginnings, and amid unfavourable belongings, grows up into the "perfect woman, nobly planned." It is obvious that the sustained exhibition and gradual development of a character require powers far more unusual than those needed for the successful representation of its appearance at a particular period of life; and the reader of the story may see cause to be thankful that the vivid painter of rural manners and customs is at the same time the metaphysician who has written a life of Spinoza. Whether indebted to his philosophical training or not, Herr Auerbach is never for an instant oblivious of his key-note, which is struck in this wise in the initiatory chapter:—

"Down a path between gardens, early on a misty autumn morning, two children, a boy and girl from six to seven years old, are going hand in hand towards the village. The girl, evidently the older of the two, carries a slate, books and copy-books under her arm; the boy has the same in a bag of grey linen, hanging open over his shoulders. The girl has a cap of white drill, reaching almost to the forehead, and bringing out the prominent arch of the brow; the boy has nothing on his head. Only one step is to be heard, for the boy wears stout shoes, but the girl is barefoot. Wherever the path allows, the children walk together, but where the hedges are too close, the girl always walks first.

"A white vapour lies upon the fallow foliage of the bushes, and the haws and spindleberries, but more especially the hips, bristling on their bare stalks, have all a silvery appearance. As the children come along, the sparrows in the bushes set up a chirp and fly away in restless little troops and settle again at a short distance, once more to take flight and fix upon an apple tree in a garden, where their alighting brings down many a rustling leaf. A magpie darts from the path into a field, to the great wild pear tree where the ravens are cowering in silence; she must have told them something, for they rise on the wing and circle round the tree, one old one alighting on the giddy topmost twig, while the lower boughs afford the others good places for a view. Doubtless it concerns them to know why the children with the school-books have taken the cross way, and are going out to the village, nay, one of them flies forward like a scout, and perches on a pollard willow by the pool. The children, however, go quietly forward till they have reached the high-road by the alders about the pond; they cross it, and go to a humble-looking house on the other side. The house is shut up, the children stand at the door and knock gently. The girl cries courageously, 'Father! Mother!' and 'Father! Mother!' are repeated by the boy in a more timid tone. The girl grasps the frosted latch and presses it gently; the boards creak, she listens, but nothing ensues; and now she ventures to move the latch quickly up and down; the sound dies away in the dreary space within, and no human voice answers the boy, who, with his mouth at a cranny, is again crying 'Father! Mother!' He gazes inquiringly at his sister; while he has been looking down his breath has frozen on the door."

The tone of the book never varies from that of this introduction; the latched door remains fast, the hazy pallor of the autumnal morning broods over these pages to their conclusion, though this is intended to be a happy one; the feet of the sister and the head of the brother remain their weakest parts respectively throughout, and, whenever the orphan pair are in a strait, the girl always goes first. Both characters are drawn with infinite skill,

and it is difficult to say whether the delineation of the active self-reliance of the one, or of the feeble shiftlessness of the other, evinces the profounder knowledge of the human heart. The chief interest is, of course, concentrated upon Little Barefoot's resolute battle with the external hardships of her lot, and the slow development of her mental powers—slow, at least, till an apparently hopeless attachment comes to transfigure her whole existence. There are, however, many other characters drawn with force and truth. At one period of her life, for example, Little Barefoot lives with Black Maranne, a single woman of very independent and peculiar character. The great fact in her life is the absence of her son John, who has been away more than thirty years, whose return she continually awaits with feverish expectancy, but whom Little Barefoot, in common with the whole village, knows to be dead. No one, however, dare say a word, and Little Barefoot is compelled to listen in silence to the mother's hopes and fears for the dead:—

"Amrei [*i. e.*, Anna Maria, Little Barefoot's Christian name] was herself often afraid in the long silent winter nights when she sat and heard nothing but the drowsy clucking of the fowls and the dreamy bleating of the kid, and it really was like witchcraft to see how fast Maranne spun. She herself once said, 'I think my John helps me to spin,' and yet she complained that she could not think of him that winter so much as had been her wont. She reproached herself on that account with being a bad mother, and complained of feeling as if her son's features were gradually becoming indistinct, as if she were forgetting all that he had done, his laughing, singing, and crying, his climbing trees and jumping over ditches. 'It were terrible,' she would say, 'if all this were to die away and nobody know any more of it,' and she would then, with visible constraint, tell Amrei everything to the least particular, and Amrei felt fearfully uncomfortable to hear all this said over and over again of a dead man, as if he were still alive. And again Maranne complained, 'It is really a sin that I should be able to weep no more for my John. I have heard once, that you can weep for a lost one as long as he lives and till he is decayed in the grave. When he has become dust, the tears are all dried up. No, that cannot be; my John cannot, must not, shall not be dead. \* \* \* O joy! come, John, sit down here. Tell me nothing, I will know nothing, thou art here, and that is good. What matter where thou hast been? The long, long years have only been a minute. Where thou hast been I have not, and now thou art here and I have thy hand, and will not let it go till it is cold. Well, Amrei, John must wait till you are grown up; I say no more. Why don't you speak?'"

"Amrei felt as if a hand were upon her throat, the spectral dead seemed everlastingly before her; the secret rested on her lips, she might utter it, and then the roof would fall in, and there would be an end of everything."

After this we think Herr Auerbach may safely intrust his claims to the arbitration of a jury of mothers. There is one English writer of whom his works remind us somewhat forcibly—Miss Martineau. There is the same shrewd, solid, somewhat hard common sense; the same active and genuine benevolence; the same insight into character and the springs of action; the same fidelity of description and power of producing a picture from the combination of minute details. It is due to him, however, to say that his stories, so far as we are acquainted with them, offer no traces of the dogmatic tone that occasionally renders the English lady's books what the Latins euphemistically termed *less agreeable*.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

- A History of Prices, and the State of the Circulation during the Nine Years 1848—1856.* By Thomas Tooke, F.R.S., and William Newmarch. Vols. V. and VI. Longman and Co.
- A Journal of Two Years' Travel in Persia, Ceylon, &c.* By Robert B. M. Binning. 2 vols. Allen and Co.
- The Life and Times of Sir Peter Curzon, Kt.* With a Historical Introduction and Elucidatory Notes. By John Maclean, Esq., F.S.A. Bell and Daldy.
- The British Botanist's Field-Book: a Synopsis of the British Flowering Plants.* By A. P. Childs, F.R.C.S. Longman and Co.
- The New Zealand Settler's Guide.* By J. Rhodes Cooper, Esq. Stanford.
- The Mormons. The Dream and the Reality; or, Lessons from the Sketch-Book of Experience.* Edited by a Clergyman, Masters.
- The Press and the Public Service.* By a Distinguished Writer. G. Routledge and Co.
- Songs of the Cavaliers and Roundheads, Jacobite Ballads, &c.* By George W. Thornbury. Hurst and Blackett.
- Marguerite's Legacy: a Novel.* By Mrs. T. F. Stewart.
- 3 vols. Hurst and Blackett.*
- Photo, the Solitude: a Tale of Modern Greece.* By David R. Morier, Esq. 3 vols. L. Booth.
- Conversations on Topics of Interest between Two Friends.* Saunders and Otley.
- Orestes and the Avengers. An Hellenic Mystery.* In Three Acts. By Goronva Camlan. John W. Parker and Son.
- Songs of Summer.* By R. Harry Stoddard. Boston, U.S.: Ticknor and Fields.
- The Maiden Warrior; or, The Fairest of Nidhale. A Tale of the Coenantes.* By A. S. Lamb. Edinburgh: MacLachlan and Stewart.
- Alessandro Gavazzi: a Biography.* By J. W. King. J. W. King.

TOOKE'S History of Prices is an established book of reference in regard to banking and commercial statistics. The four volumes already published include a review of the price of corn and other produce, with the state of the money circulation of the country from 1792 to 1848. The two volumes, now continuing and completing the work, embrace the nine years from 1848 to 1856, and enter upon a wider field of inquiry. The development of railways and the railway system, the origin and progress of the free trade movement, the withdrawal of protection from British agriculture, the state of finance and banking in France, and the discovery of gold in California and Australia, have introduced new and important elements into discussions of financial statistics and commercial economy. These and other topics are fully discussed in the present treatise by Mr. Tooke, who has obtained in Mr. Newmarch an able and trustworthy coadjutor. Mr. Tooke continues to write the portion of the work relating to the prices of agricultural and other produce, and the state of the circulation, with copious disquisitions on all points bearing upon the currency question. To Mr. Newmarch the work is indebted for the chapters on general markets, railways, free trade, France, and the gold discoveries, with an essay on the early influx of the precious metals from America. All the statistics and tabular statements throughout the work have also been contributed by Mr. Newmarch. A copious and well-arranged index to the whole work is appended to the sixth volume. To bankers, traders, agriculturists, speculators, as well as to students of political economy and of modern history, the work is indispensable for reference, and while it forms an important record of statistics, the accompanying comments and disquisitions offer many hints that may be turned to practical account by the intelligent merchant and shrewd man of business.

The plan, intentions, and principles of Mr. Child's British Botanist's Field Book are good, but it is drawn up from books, not from plants. If the object were to make out the name to which a description in Hooker and Arnott's Flora refers, this compilation might enable one to do so, but for finding out the name of a plant in a field excursion, it would in many cases be of very little use. Not only are the characters which strike the field botanist the most readily on a hasty glance of the plant very generally omitted, but those given are sometimes erroneous, as, for example, when *Cornus suecica*, and *Thesium linophyllum* or *vinca* are to be sought for amongst "trees or shrubs," and *Hedera helix* among "herbaceous plants." Sometimes the characters given are contradictory, as



when "ringent" is defined as "gaping, as the flowers of *Antirrhinum*," while *Antirrhinum* is classed under "Corolla not ringent;" and sometimes purely theoretical, unintelligible except to the scientific botanist, and disputed even by many eminent men, and consequently useless in a practical field book, as, for example, the parietal phloem of *Cucurbitaceæ*, and the definition of *epigynous*. Mr. Child's book, in short, as numerous similar instances in genera and species show, is merely a book of tabulated characters selected by the compiler from those given by Hooker and Arnott, without verifying them on the plants, so as to ascertain whether, in making his selection, he has hit upon the intelligible and prominent ones. A work of this kind, if well done, would be very useful, but it can only be accomplished satisfactorily by one who has worked out a detailed flora from an actual study of specimens, or who has at least the plant present to his mind's eye. The only really good work we have of this kind is Smith's Compendium of his English Flora, now of course to a certain degree obsolete from the general progress of botany since his day.

Captain Cooper's Guide to Settlers in New Zealand is the fruit of the author's long residence in the colony, and practical experience as to matters most important to emigrants. The information is authentic and recent, and is communicated in a direct, terse, and sensible way, such as gives confidence in the writer's statements. There have been many useful works published about New Zealand, but intending emigrants will do well to consult Captain Cooper's book for the latest information. A special feature in this guide-book is its presenting a digest of the land-regulations of the governments of the several provinces, by studying which settlers may be assisted in selecting the localities most suited to their capabilities and former experience. These regulations have not before been published in this country. New Zealand appears to be the least colonial of all the colonies of England; that is to say, that settlers may get into the kind of society to which they may have been accustomed at home more easily here than elsewhere; but there are special directions, which Captain Cooper's Guide affords in a succinct and practical manner, both as to the preparations for emigrating, and the prospects of prosperity in the new home of the emigrants.

Mormonism is one of the strangest phenomena of the nineteenth century. In Europe, we are calling everything in question—the authority of churches, of creeds, of formularies, and even of the Scriptures themselves. On the other side of the Atlantic, a vulgar, illiterate, and sensual impostor induces an immense body of followers to receive as inspired an absurd romance, and to place their souls and bodies implicitly under his guidance, on the ground of his divine mission. But not only has he founded a great spiritual and temporal empire, but he has succeeded in transmitting his authority to a successor. Brigham Young wields the sceptre of Joe Smith, and exercises despotic power over hard-headed Anglo-Saxons, who are leaving our shores in thousands for the Valley of the Salt Lake. That the majority find there what they want, seems probable from the fact that the tide of immigration is unchecked. But every now and then accounts reach the public which make us feel some distrust of those who tell us that the age of superstition is gone by. "The Mormons. The Dream and the Reality," edited by a Clergyman (the Rev. W. B. Flower), is an account, by a person who was actually induced to join the society, of all he saw in the great Mormon settlement. He describes the preliminary steps taken in this country to entrap the emigrant; the appearance and state of the country and city of Navoo; the system of government, and the social effects of the institution of polygamy. These subjects are illustrated by extracts from the speeches of Brigham Young, and by descriptions of scenes of horror which the writer has witnessed. It appears that for the crime of resisting the high priest's will there is but one punishment—death. This is inflicted, as in the "Holy Vehme," by an unknown executioner,

who watches his opportunity; and no one ventures to ask any questions when the victim is found with a bullet through his heart. Horrible as are the details which are here related, we look upon this singular phenomenon as an attempt, by an ignorant and fanatical people, to obtain that visible religious unity and fellowship which they cannot find in Europe. That it should last long in the present state we cannot believe. But we have no doubt that in course of time the civil and religious polity will receive large modifications; and Mormonism, like other pretended hierarchies begun in enthusiasm and imposture, will be maintained as a bond of political union for the immense population who acknowledge its authority. That it is a most disgusting form of fanaticism, beside which Mahometanism is purity itself, is abundantly shown by this useful little book. But there seems no possibility of arresting its progress among our ignorant population, except by a more definite instruction in the Christian religion than they are willing to receive, even if it were offered to them.

The volume on the Press and the Public Service is more worthy of attention than might be expected from the quick-look announcement of the title page, of its being "by a distinguished writer." Lord Clarendon's assertion of the right to question persons in his department of the public service respecting their supposed connexion with anonymous publications, is the topic from which the writer starts on his rambling and occasionally energetic defence of what he considers "the freedom of the press." Much of what is alleged is perfectly true, but the author carries his argument to an absurd length when he maintains that anonymous writing is essential to the liberty of the press. All that is essential to this much cherished principle of the English constitution is the absence of any public censorship of works previous to publication. This is all that Milton, or Locke, or any other advocate for "unlicensed printing," ever maintained. With regard to the special subject of the interference with anonymous writers holding public appointments, it must be remembered that serious evils have happened, and may occur again, through the revelation of official reports, and sometimes use has been made of such knowledge for personal gain and even more unworthy objects. The head of any department may be perfectly justified in claiming control in this point over all his *employés*; and if such a regulation is in force, an anonymous writer is at liberty to make his choice between enjoying the advantages of official position or of preferring the privilege of "the freedom of the press." If the surrender of this privilege is one of the terms of his salaried servitude, he must weigh the condition well, and refrain from grumbling if he serves under it.

The author of Shakspeare's England, Art and Nature, and other works that have attracted some notice, inscribes his volume of Songs of the Cavaliers and other Ballads to Douglas Jerrold, as "to one who has struggled and has won, from one who is struggling and hopes to win." Mr. Thornbury will not win much reputation by struggles such as his present literary efforts. He has given a motley miscellany of songs and lays, many of them great rubbish, and "shot" into his volume just as they had been carted from the various sources whence they had been gathered. The Songs of the Cavaliers and the Roundheads, and the Jacobite ballads, are homogeneous in subject; but the miscellaneous pieces, which occupy more than half of the volume, are muddled together without chronological or any other principle of arrangement. The historical worth of the book is diminished by the absence of a single note of explanation as to the authorship, origin, or occasion of the political ballads.

Marguerite's Legacy, by Mrs. T. F. Steward, is a tale of the times of the French emigrants during the period of the Empire. Marchionesses and Counts and Abbés, and members of other classes in the old *régime*, figure among the leading personages of the story, which is enlivened by several melodramatic episodes. Of these the most conspicuous is the trial of Madame Pauline d'Ar-

genson for the alleged poisoning of her husband. The advocate for the defence is a certain M. de Monci, who had been introduced to the reader in the opening scene of the novel, as a young student, who, at an inn in the Dordogne, accidentally met Madame D'Estaing, widow of the field-marshal of that name, and mother of Madame d'Argenson, and relieved her from the embarrassment of having lost her purse on the road. Whence arise other introductions and coincidences, more improbable but less wonderful than commonly happen in real life, as is the manner of fiction. Marguerite Oberon, known in childhood as Madge O'Brien, who gives the name to the book, is supposed to be an orphan of Cork, where many of the emigrants had settled. In the closing chapter the author collects all the surviving personages of the tale at the opera in Paris, on the occasion of the state visit of the allied sovereigns and generals, after the restoration of Louis XVIII. Curious transformations now have taken place, as witnessed by Lady Gink, an Irishwoman, who opens her eyes with amazement when she sees M. de Bosque, the dancing-master at Cork, now the Vicomte de Brissac, and Mr. O'Brien, Madge's father, Don Julio de Olivar, and the poor crippled abbé, once pitted in Ireland, now the Prince Talleyrand. A little bit of anticipatory politics is inserted in the notice of the great diplomatist. "Pray, my friend," says the Vicomte to Portalis, "mark Talleyrand; he has left France and gone round to Russia with his *attaché* Menival; there they are in the stage box. Alexander is in black, but black becomes the Star of Russia. See with what practised care our keen state-pilot veils the ambiguous homage he tenders to the autocrat! A theatre is the best place in the world for diplomacy; people are off their guard, and just in the mood to be tickled by such lures as Talleyrand's hook is baited with." "Menival tells me," said Portalis, "that notwithstanding his apparent pliancy to Russia, Talleyrand leans most to the English Duke. He predicts that the charm of neighbourhood and social intercourse will work, though not in his time; that France and England, united under sagacious rulers, emulous in friendship as in progressive civilization, will be able, of themselves, to preserve the poise of Europe, and prevent the threatened preponderance of Russia." Of Marguerite we only tell, in conclusion, that she refused princely offers of marriage, to unite herself to a worthy Protestant curé to whom she had been faithfully attached. The book is not artistically written, and its chief interest arises from the scenes and characters being foreign, and thus presenting variety from the ordinary novels of fashionable life.

Mr. David Morier's tale of modern Greece, Photo the Suliote, is heavily written, and is a book to be read rather for instruction than amusement. But we must do the author the justice of saying that he appears to have good personal knowledge of the country and people where the scenes of his story are laid, and the book has some points of political value that counterbalance its literary faults. Although the immediate incidents of the tale belong to a period nearly half a century ago, there is much in respect to the condition and relations of the Mahomedan and Christian populations of the Turkish Empire unchanged at the present moment. The political dissertation which forms an appendix to the third volume of the tale is therefore not out of place, and contains matter deserving attention. Mr. Morier has little faith in the power or will of the Turkish government to advance in civilization, and asserts that the vaunted reforms are mere surface varnishings, and imitations of a few outward usages of Europe, not transformations of either social or political life. The good measures enacted of late years by the Porte are the result of pressure applied by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and the representatives of foreign powers. Mr. Morier urges that England should continue in the course of moral suasion or coercion, and should also especially seek to increase her influence by the judicious selection of efficient consular agents both at the ports and inland towns. The consular service has been often very badly supplied, and it would be



well if British agents, trained for the purpose, could be more generally substituted for the Greeks and other foreigners who, under the flag of the consulate of England, often disgrace the English name. Of the good qualities and capabilities of the Turkish people, as distinguished from their rulers and from officials of all grades, Mr. Morier speaks in terms which confirm many other testimonies to the same effect received during the late war.

Conversations on Topics of Interest between Two Friends contain sensible and suggestive comments on a variety of subjects chiefly pertaining to social and domestic life. The political reflections are also on the whole sound and commendable, and the form of dialogue enlivens the discussion of topics that might appear trite and commonplace if presented in the shape of didactic essays.

Mr. J. W. King, a personal friend and enthusiastic admirer of Alessandro Gavazzi, has compiled a Biographical Memoir of the Italian patriot and reformer. Gavazzi first became conspicuous in history during the revolution that led to the establishment of a republic at Rome in 1848. He was not a republican by conviction, but that form of government having been adopted by his compatriots he laboured energetically for the common weal. He it was who organized and superintended the hospital service during the defence of the city against the French army of invasion. His eloquence nerved the Romans to resist foreign interference, and to sustain the struggle for civil and ecclesiastical freedom. When the cause was hopeless, and Hugo Bassi and other of his friends were put to death, Gavazzi made his escape to England, where, and in America, his subsequent career as a denouncer of the Papacy as the source of the degradation of his country is well known. Gavazzi does not sympathize with Mazzini and the ultra liberal or republican refugees. He is an advocate for constitutional monarchy and representative institutions, as in this country and in Sardinia. Extracts from his published addresses on political as well as religious topics form a prominent feature in Mr. King's Biographical Memoir. An honourable testimony to Gavazzi appeared on the occupation of Rome by the French army. General Oudinot required every one who had filled a public post during the republic to render an account thereof, to ascertain that no personal advantage had been taken. The General was so thoroughly satisfied with Gavazzi's conduct as creator and director of the military hospitals, that as a mark of respect he gave him a "safe conduct" for his security wherever there was a French garrison, and by aid of this he effected an honourable retreat from Rome.

#### New Editions.

*Rules chiefly Deduced from Experiments for Conducting the Practical Operations of a Siege.* By Lieut.-General Sir Charles W. Pasley, K.C.B. Part I. Third Edition. John W. Parker and Son.

*Pey Woffington: a Novel.* By Charles Reade, Esq. A New Edition. Bentley.

*Christie Johnstone: a Novel.* By Charles Reade, Esq. A New Edition. Bentley.

*Margaret Catchpole.* By the Rev. R. Cobbold. Hodgson. THE new edition of Lieut.-General Sir Charles Pasley's treatise on Siege Operations, while in substance retaining the practical rules derived from former experience, includes such modifications as the most recent improvements in military art have suggested. For example, the use of rolled sheets of galvanized iron, bound with wire, in place of the wickerwork gabions, will prove an immense saving of time and labour, with the advantage of the metal being easily transported in ships in the flat state. The metal pontoons are also inventions of recent date, and all such improvements of *matériel* are described in Part First of the treatise. Part Second will contain Directions for the Construction of Batteries in the Field; Part Third will treat of the Regular Sap, and the Practice of Military Mining; and Part Fourth, of the Final Operations of a Siege. A separate treatise will be devoted to the subject of the construction of military bridges. The details of General Pasley's work are of too technical and professional a kind to admit of an extended notice, but the prac-

tical experience of a veteran officer of his scientific skill will be duly appreciated in the service, and all the more that he is not a bigoted adherent to ancient routine in the art of war. "On reflecting," says the writer, "more maturely on siege operations than ever I did before, I have come to the conclusion that the rules laid down by all elementary writers on fortification, and copied by one another during the last two centuries, for determining the proper strength of besieging armies, and for constructing lines of circum-and-counter-valuation, are not only erroneous in themselves, but have been entirely set aside in the most celebrated and successful sieges within the last fifty or sixty years, which ought to have failed entirely for want of means, had those rules which come under the poet's definition of 'the precept and the pedantry of cold mechanic warfare' been founded on reason." In fact, there is need of genius and common sense, as much as of materials and knowledge, in sieges, as in all operations of war and in all affairs of life. The history of the most famous sieges will supply the facts from which the true induction of principles or practical rules are to be drawn, and this General Pasley more than before seeks to do in this edition of his work.

Margaret Catchpole is one of those books which illustrate the saying about truth being stranger than fiction. The Rev. Mr. Cobbold, the author of the narrative, vouches for its truth as the record of the career of a servant girl from Suffolk, who died not many years since the wife of one of the richest and most respected colonists in Australia. Margaret went out as a convict, but her crime was one not morally repulsive, and in keeping with the adventurous spirit of her early years. She took one of her master's horses, and rode from Ipswich seventy miles to London, to meet her lover. The law does not measure guilt by motives but by acts, and she was tried and condemned to death for horse stealing; the sentence was afterwards commuted to transportation. In the account of her exemplary conduct in the colony, and the adventures that befel her there, most useful practical lessons are inculcated. We are pleased to find so commendable a book included in the new series of Household Novels.

#### Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

*Address to the Meteorological Society of Scotland.* By James Stark, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: Menzies.

*Thoughts for the Holy Week for Young Persons.* By the Author of 'Amy Herbert.' John W. Parker and Son.

*Things New and Old in Religion, Science, and Literature.* Nisbet and Co.

*Bowring, Cobden, and China: a Memoir.* By Lammer Moor. Edinburgh: J. Menzies.

DR. STARK'S address to the Meteorological Society of Scotland contains a lucid exposition of the objects and operations of that Society, with general remarks that may be useful to scientific observers in other districts. The practical applications of meteorology to agriculture and to public health are specially considered in this address. The Meteorological Society of Scotland is at work on a scale and with an efficiency that only leaves regret that a wider field is not open to their zealous and well-arranged labours. The great landowners, such as the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Sutherland, the Marquis of Breadalbane, and Sir James Matheson, have at their own expense established stations; and in the clergy, medical men, schoolmasters, and gardeners throughout the country, the Society finds an abundant staff of intelligent co-operators. The meteorology of Scotland will in due time be reduced to system, so far as philosophical inductions can be drawn from numerous and carefully ascertained observations. The Society has undertaken to collect facts connected with the temperature and currents of the sea, as well as atmospheric changes, and their influences on vegetable and animal life.

The season being at hand appointed by the Church for commemorating the highest mysteries of the Christian faith, attention may be called to *Thoughts for the Holy Week*, by the author of 'Amy Herbert.' They are in the form of discourses arranged for each day, and directing the

devotional thoughts to some particular point connected with the season. The author states that having occasion last year to read to a party of young persons and servants, and having exhausted the sermons and tracts within reach appropriate to the season, she made use of papers which she had some years before prepared for some children in whom she was deeply interested. These papers, enlarged and modified, were read aloud at the time of family prayers. This explanation is the best recommendation we can present of the work, both as to the earnestness of its tone, and its adaptation for use under similar circumstances. The book is also suited for private devotional use, as well as for guiding thoughts of others by being publicly read during Passion week.

Things New and Old is the title of a pleasant and instructive miscellany on subjects of science, literature, and religion. There are about fifty papers, the variety of the topics of which will be seen from the following headings of a few of them. Rawlinson and Layard's discoveries; Bessemer's New Process; Nature-printing; Lichens; Blaise Pascal; Christian Schwartz; a Sabbath on Mount Carmel; Glaciers; India and Christianity; Paper-making; the Siege of Malta in 1565; the Heron; the Stork; the Redbreast; Medical Science; Christian Sacrifice. The object of the work is to furnish entertaining and useful reading, at the same time endeavouring to direct the thoughts to religious meditation. Some of the illustrations are ingenious, exhibiting at one view "things new and old" in way of contrast, as where the upper part of one picture represents a courier galloping at full speed with a despatch, while below a clerk is quietly seated in an office flashing the intelligence by the electric telegraph. Several of the papers are contributed by friends of the editor, and others are taken from previous publications, as in the case of an article on the Coal-fields, and others reprinted from 'Excelsior,' and Major Stewart's account of his Ascent of Mount Ararat, which appeared in 'The Times' of August 22, 1856. These varieties make the work all the more an excellent reading-book for young people.

A friend of Sir J. Bowring, indignant at the outcry against him for party purposes, has prepared a biographical memoir in which his past career is described, and his services to the nation recounted. As a contrast, the same writer recalls attention to the unpatriotic principles of Mr. Cobden, as encouraging Russian aggression, and unconcerned for the honour of England in any other shape than as the country producing the best calico.

#### List of New Books.

- Action (W.) on Reproductive Organs, 8vo, cloth, 7s.  
Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green, sewed, complete, 3s.  
Baxter's Paragraph Bible, pocket vol.: Deuteronomy, 2s.  
Bible and Ruth, 1s. 6d.  
Blashfield's Selection of Vases, &c., 4to, cloth, 11s. 6d.  
Breen's (H.) Modern English Literature, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.  
Buchanan's (J.) Comfort in Affliction, new edit., 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Cameron's (A. M.) Wages Calculator, 12mo, bound, 3s. 6d.  
Carver's (Sir P.) Life, by J. Maclean, Esq., 8vo, cloth, 16s.  
Carlyle's Cromwell, Vol. II., crown 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
Cassell's Educator, 4to, cloth, Vol. II., 4s. 6d.  
Coleman's (E.) Costs in Chancery, 2nd edition, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Cook's (G. W.) Law of the Hastings, &c., 1mo, cloth, 3s.  
Davy's (J.) Angler in the Lake District, fcap. 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.  
Desprez's (Rev. P. S.) Book of Jonah, 12mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Doubleday's (T.) Eye of St. Mark, 2 vols. post 8vo, cloth, 11s. 6d.  
Ellis's (H. W.) Life, 12mo, cloth, 3s.; gilt, 3s. 6d.  
Fielding's (H.) Joseph Andrews, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Fortunes (The) of Perkin Warbeck, 12mo, bds., 1s. 6d.  
Gesenius's Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon, 4to, cloth, 12s. 6d.  
Gibson's (T. H.) Kansas, &c., 12mo, cloth, 5s.  
Grapell's (W.) Sources of the Roman Civil Law, 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Griffin's (G.) Rivals, &c., 12mo, bds., 2s. 6d.  
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## ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

## THE SOCIETY OF ARTS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

WE had the pleasure, some time since, of giving publicity in our pages to the very important report of the Committee of eminent members of the Royal Society, formed with a view to improve the relations between Science and the Government. It is perhaps unnecessary to remind our readers, that the substance of that report was a recommendation that the Royal Society of London should be recognised as the ordinary medium of communication between the government and scientific men, and the centre of a systematic movement for the spread of scientific knowledge among the people. Great as have been the services conferred on science by the Royal Society, we ventured to hope that this proposal was the inauguration of a new career of usefulness which was opening out before it, and that it might eventually be the instrument of converting the hitherto Utopian dreams of Bacon into a splendid reality. This was the object of its foundation. It was to be a nucleus around which scientific men, like the luminous atmosphere round the sun, were to gather. Here they were to confer on the interests of science, and to compare the results of their experiments. And here it was, accordingly, that the first steps in experimental philosophy were made and registered. If the speculations of the earlier Fellows were somewhat puerile, they served at least to clear the atmosphere for the transmission of "drier light." If Sir Kenelm Digby entertained the Fellows with discourses on the virtues of vipers' blood, and Sir Robert Moray explained the manner in which Solan geese were formed in shell-fish; if the Duke of Buckingham exhibited experiments on the effects of powdered rhinoceros' horn on spiders, and Evelyn was desired to sow the seeds which had descended from heaven in a shower of rain; at the very same time Newton was reading his immortal papers on the properties of light, and Boyle was communicating those speculations which contained in them the whole principle of the steam-engine. This noble tradition has never been interrupted. We cannot indeed at the present day find, among the Fellows of the Royal Society, a representative of the Digbys, the Morays, and the Buckinghams; but we can point to the Faradays, the Lyells, the Whewells, the Playfairs, the Herschels, the Rosses, the Owens, and ask with confidence whether they are not worthy successors of the Boyles and the Newtons. If these are not the men to represent science in England, and to direct the progress of scientific knowledge, where are they to be found?

In the Adelphi, exclaims the Society of Arts, with Sir Joseph Paxton at their head. We are the proper mouthpiece of men of science, the body best qualified to advise the government on scientific questions. We are the "salt" of England's philosophers. We are the proper medium for conveying to eminent scientific men the assistance necessary for the prosecution of their discoveries, or the rewards which their grateful country desires to confer upon them for their past services. Our claims consist in the fact, that we have

put ourselves in communication with the Mechanics' Institutes throughout the country, and have established in these institutions examinations in science and literature. This is, in fact, the substance of the memorial presented to Lord Palmerston by Colonel Sykes and Mr. Peter Le Neve Foster, which appeared in our last week's impression.

To suppose that there could be any rivalry between the Royal Society and the Society of Arts, is of course out of the question. Many of the Fellows of the Royal Society are also Fellows of the Society of Arts, and they have always shown themselves most anxious to assist the Society of Arts in the performance of its very useful functions. We should be the last to undervalue those functions. The construction of gigantic greenhouses and ornamental lodges for gentlemen's parks, the designing of tasteful patterns for cotton prints, drawing-room papers, cream ewers, jugs and basins, are very useful arts, and some of them require a knowledge of science. We never visit the gardens at Kew, or the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, without admiring the improvement which these gentlemen have made in glass buildings. We never sit down to breakfast without looking with complacency on the elegant antique form of our cream jug, which we believe cost eighteenpence, and blessing the Society of Arts for indoctrinating the potters of Staffordshire in the principles of taste. No one, moreover, can fail to appreciate the moral and practical usefulness of their weekly lectures. Look, for example, to that announced for next week 'On the Trade, Habits, and Education of the Street Hawkers of London.' But these achievements, however useful, are hardly of the kind which would constitute the Society of Arts the proper representative of the scientific men of England, or the leaders in the movement for the wider diffusion of high science among the people.

But it may be said that even though the Society of Arts has no pretension to represent men of science, or to be their mouthpiece in their communications with government, popular education lies properly within its province. To set Professors Faraday and Owen to lecture to the operatives of Manchester, Leeds, and Birmingham, would be to "cut blocks with a razor." A coarser tool would do the work better; and Sir Joseph Paxton would form a truer estimate of the intellectual wants of the operatives than one whose mind had acquired the subtlety and delicacy imparted by habits of abstract reasoning.

In reply to this objection, we must observe that, as far as we know, the Royal Society has no intention of interfering with the exertions of the Society of Arts in this matter at all. But the objection, moreover, appears to us to embody one of the most fatal fallacies of the present day. It is assumed that elementary instruction requires nothing but a superficial knowledge of the subject. The very opposite is the fact. The student at the very threshold of inquiry must be inspired with that philosophical humility which is essential to the successful investigation of the laws of nature. The effect of having men of the very highest scientific education at the head of any system of instruction diffuses a certain tone throughout the whole; and we venture to say that the influence of such minds as those of Professors Faraday and Owen, however slightly and remotely exerted, would after a few years make itself felt, like the electric fluid,

to the very extremity of the educational conductor. The true philosophical spirit can never be communicated by mere practical men, however shrewd they may be. The contriving of joint-stock companies, and securing satisfactory dividends for the shareholders, is not the school in which are formed Newtons and Watts. Men will always be ready enough to turn scientific knowledge to a practical account. The aim of those who would direct the progress of experimental philosophy has always been to inculcate a spirit of patient and disinterested investigation. This was Bacon's grand object. He never ceases to moderate the natural anxiety of men to hurry on to the *vindemiatio*. We do not believe, we repeat, that it is part of the plan of the Royal Society to interfere directly in the practical part of education. This would not be within their province. But we feel assured that their general superintendence of scientific education would be of inestimable benefit. In the event of the recommendations of Lord Wrottesley's committee being carried out, there would be nothing to hinder them from continuing to give their assistance to the Society of Arts, who would thus be enabled to work with greater success in their own peculiar vocation under an accredited superior. But there must be one recognised head; and we know of no head which would command the confidence alike of the government and of the great body of scientific men, except the Royal Society.

## JOHN MITCHELL KEMBLE, M.A.

It is with sincere sorrow that we announce the decease of Mr. John Mitchell Kemble, the eminent Anglo-Saxon scholar and archæologist. Learning and literature have to deplore a grave and indeed an irreparable loss, since in his own department Mr. Kemble has not left an equal to himself behind. He had been attacked about a fortnight since by inflammation of the lungs, and though his naturally strong constitution and excellent medical advice for a while seemed to baffle the disease, he on Thursday sank under it.

Mr. Kemble departed this life at Gresham's Hotel, Dublin. He had repaired some weeks ago to that city for the purpose of collecting specimens of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon antiquities for the Art Treasure Exhibition at Manchester, and there is reason to believe that the exertions he made in the cause he had so much at heart—the historical antiquities of England—sowed the seeds of the disease which has proved fatal to him.

Mr. Kemble was the eldest son of the late Mr. Charles Kemble, and the distinguished name which he inherited he illustrated still further by his own signal abilities and acquirements. He was educated partly by Dr. Richardson, the eminent etymologist, and author of the well-known 'Dictionary of the English Language,' and partly by Dr. Benjamin Heath Malkin, Master of King Edward's Grammar-School, Bury St. Edmunds. In 1826, Mr. Kemble entered at Trinity College, Cambridge, and at the usual times took his degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts. After proceeding Bachelor of Arts, Mr. Kemble travelled extensively in Germany, and confirmed and extended his knowledge of the Teutonic languages—of which, indeed, he had previously laid the foundations while at Cambridge—and became intimately acquainted with the most eminent philologists of the Continent, Thiersch, Creuzer, and most especially the celebrated brothers, James and William Grimm. James Grimm always regarded Mr. Kemble not only as his most distinguished disciple, but also as his only eminent successor in the field of Teutonic literature; and the academies and philologists of Germany and the North of Europe recorded their opinion of his profound and diversified learning by sending him diplomas of their several societies.



Among many other distinctions of the kind, he was a Honorary Member of the Royal Academies of Berlin, Göttingen, and Munich, Fellow of the Royal Society of Copenhagen, Iceland, and Stockholm, &c. &c. Mr. Kemble's acknowledged works bear but a small proportion to the number of his contributions in print to the history, antiquities, and philology of the Teutonic races. He wrote with facility both in German and English, and his 'Stamm-Tafel' of the West Saxon kings—a pamphlet written in the former language—is not more remarkable for its original views and peculiar erudition than for the purity of its style. But his contributions to his favourite subjects by no means include his labours or his acquirements in general literature. He was well versed in classical and Spanish literature also, and indeed had considerable acquaintance with nearly every branch of literary inquiry, as well as with many departments of science and art. To profound and various learning, Mr. Kemble added singularly engaging and popular manners and great knowledge of the world. In public he was an eloquent, correct, and forcible speaker; as a lecturer he had few superiors; while his general conversation combined the most curious information with a lively and ready wit. Hence on public occasions he was almost indispensable, while in private society he was universally welcome. His unexpected decease will throw a gloom in many private circles, and will long be the subject of grief to his more intimate friends. It is so recent, that though a longer and more detailed memoir of him is on all accounts desirable, yet on the present occasion we can only express our grief at the removal of one whose place cannot soon or readily be supplied in learning, in society, or to his friends.

For a good many years Mr. Kemble was editor of the 'British and Foreign Quarterly Review,' a periodical of the highest class, which exercised considerable political and literary influence, but ceased to exist about the year 1845. At the time of his decease he held the office of Examiner of Plays under the Lord Chamberlain.

At the opening of the present year Mr. Kemble published, in an 8vo volume, 'State Papers and Correspondence Illustrative of the Social and Political State of Europe from the Revolution to the Accession of the House of Hanover,' a publication which, in many ways, displayed his extensive knowledge of modern history and diplomacy. At the time of his decease he was engaged in preparing for the press a quarto volume, to be entitled 'Horse Ferales, or Studies in the Archaeology of the Northern Nations,' in which both the letter-press and the illustrations are his own work. Besides being a deeply learned scholar, and an admirable writer, Mr. Kemble was an accomplished draftsman, and has left behind him an immense and unrivalled collection of sketches of archaeological monuments, all of them drawn by his own hand.

In his scholastic investigations he was always guided by one principle—to know whatever could be known, on any subject. In the verification of a date, a fact, or a law, he thought no pains too great, no labour ill-bestowed. He was the most conscientious of inquirers, since he never allowed a fact to escape him, or a theory to mislead him from the straight path of truth.

To this brief sketch we subjoin a list of Mr. Kemble's publications.

In 1833 he signalled his acquirements in Teutonic Literature by the publication of 'The Anglo-Saxon Poems of Beowulf, the Traveller's Song, and the Battle of Finnesburgh, edited, together with a glossary and an historical preface.' The work reached a second edition in 1837, when an additional volume, containing 'A Translation of the Anglo-Saxon Poem of Beowulf, with a glossary and notes,' was appended to the first. The more important of Mr. Kemble's subsequent works are, the 'Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici,' published in 1839-40, by the Historic Society. 'The Anglo-Saxon Charters,' the 'Vercelli Codex: Poetry of the Codex Vercellensis, Anglo-Saxon and Latin, with an English translation,' published in 1843 as one of the works of the Ælfic Society; the 'Dialogue of Salomon and Saturnus, with an

Historical Introduction and English Translation,' published in 1848 by the same society; an edition of Twysden's 'Considerations upon the Government of England,' published in 1849 by the Camden Society; and, 'The Saxons in England, a History of the English Commonwealth till the period of the Norman Conquest,' published in 2 vols. in 1849.

#### THE REV. DR. SCORESBY, F.R.S.

A FEW weeks since we had to record the loss of one of the youngest and most enterprising of Arctic explorers, Dr. Kane, who, though an American, by his generous cooperation in the search for Sir John Franklin, and as the last gold medallist of our Royal Geographical Society, will bear an honourable place in the records of English naval history. It is now our sad duty to report the death of one of the oldest veterans of Arctic enterprise, the Rev. Dr., formerly Captain, Scoresby, who died at Torquay, on the 21st instant, after a lingering illness. Few men of our time have been more respected, combining as he did scientific eminence with high moral worth, unaffected piety, and active benevolence.

William Scoresby was born at Whitby, in Yorkshire. He was trained for naval adventure in a good school. His father was one of the most daring and successful seamen in the northern whale fishery, when that service was among the chief sources of the commercial wealth of the nation, and one of the best nurseries for the British navy. Young Scoresby early accompanied his father in his voyages, and from his youth was inured to the hardships and perils of the Arctic seas. It was when he was chief mate of his father's ship, the *Resolution* of Whitby, in 1806, that he sailed to the highest latitude then reached by navigators. On three occasions, in the month of May of that year, the *Resolution* was in  $80^{\circ} 50' 28''$ ,  $81^{\circ} 1' 53''$ , and  $81^{\circ} 12' 42''$ ; and once the ship was as far north as  $81^{\circ} 30'$ , the nearest approach to the pole at that period authenticated. None of the earlier navigators had professed to have reached beyond  $81^{\circ}$  north latitude. Sir Edward Parry in his celebrated boat expedition, during his fourth voyage, in 1827, arrived at  $82^{\circ} 45'$ , the furthest point yet reached. Dr. Kane stands second in the record of adventurous efforts to reach the pole, but the Scoresbys have still the honour of having, with their ship in ordinary sailing, navigated the highest northern latitudes. Young Scoresby remained in the whaling service after his father's death, and he had performed voyages in twelve successive seasons when he published his account of 'The Arctic Regions,' one of the most interesting records of maritime adventure that has ever been written. The work appeared in 1820, the year after Sir Edward, then Lieutenant, Parry, proceeded on his first Arctic voyage with the *Hecla* and *Griper*. Parry returned to this country in October, 1820, after wintering at Melville Island. His second voyage, with the *Fury* and *Hecla*, commenced in the summer of 1821. By this time Captain Scoresby's book had attracted new attention to the scene of Arctic enterprise. His narrative of early Arctic voyages, and of the progress of discovery, is one of the best popular accounts that have appeared on the subject; and the scientific details of the work, as well as the story of personal adventure, attest his admirable fitness for the service in which he had so long been engaged. The chapter on the Hydrography of the Greenland Seas was an important contribution to scientific and geographical knowledge; and the notices of the Meteorology and Natural History of the Arctic Regions have formed the basis of most of the subsequent researches in these departments. His definitions of the terms used by the whalers in describing the various forms of ice have been universally adopted in scientific treatises on the subject. He was the first also to attempt scientific observations on the electricity of the atmosphere in high northern latitudes, and the results of his experiments, made with an insulated conductor, eight feet above

the main-top-gallant mast head, connected by a copper wire with a copper ball attached by a silk cord to the deck, are still regarded with interest from the novelty and ingenuity of the observations. Incidentally Captain Scoresby remarks that he had personally assisted at the capture of 320 whales of the species *Balaena mysticetus*. Not one of them, he believes, exceeded sixty feet in length; and the largest he ever actually measured was fifty-eight feet from one extremity to the other. The accounts of longer specimens he thinks are exaggerations, but the less valuable *Balaena physalis* of Linnaeus, the razor-back of the whalers, often exceeds a hundred feet in length. In his whaling voyages Captain Scoresby was often in circumstances of extreme peril. One instance which he records, we mention, as exhibiting the personal energy of the man. It was in May, 1814, in the ship *Esk*, of Whitby, when a spacious opening of the ice, in latitude  $78^{\circ} 10'$ , longitude  $4^{\circ}$  east, tempted him to push in, from the appearance of a great number of whales. The ship was soon fixed immovably in the ice. After great labour and frequent danger, many days being spent in sawing through the fixed floe, or forcing a passage through masses of ice, from which the vessel often received alarming shocks, open sea was descried, but with a barrier consisting of an immense pack right across the path.

"There was no alternative but forcing through it; we therefore pushed forward into the least connected part. By availing ourselves of every advantage of sailing, where sailing was practicable, and boring or drifting where the pieces of ice lay close together, we at length reached the leeward part of a narrow channel, in which we had to ply a considerable distance against the wind. When performing this, the wind, which had hitherto blown a brisk breeze from the north, increased to a strong gale. The ship was placed in such a critical situation that we could not, for above an hour, accomplish any reduction of the sails; and while I was personally engaged performing the duty of a pilot on the topmast-head, the bending of the mast was so uncommon that I was seriously alarmed for its stability." After some days of further peril the ship was safely brought to the open sea.

To those who have read Captain Scoresby's book, or who knew him personally, we need scarcely add that on this and on all such occasions he was open in his devout gratitude to the Divine providence, which the most daring and skilful navigators have always been the most ready to acknowledge and express.

After his retirement from active service at sea, Captain Scoresby resolved to enter the church; and after holding appointments in less congenial localities, he found in the maritime town of Hull a sphere which afforded full scope for his benevolent efforts for the social and spiritual welfare of sailors. In his personal exertions and professional duties he was active and unwearied; and his published 'Discourses to Seamen' exhibit the earnestness and kindness with which he laboured in his new vocation for the good of the service in which he had passed his earlier years.

In the progress of Arctic exploration Dr. Scoresby continued to take the deepest interest. Although he had from the first thought that the attempts to find a north-west passage to the Chinese seas were unprofitable for any political or commercial object, he considered that the scientific results justified all the risk and expense of the expeditions; while, even in regard to financial returns to the nation, the establishment of the Davis Strait Whale Fishery, and of the trade of the Hudson's Bay Company, had compensated for the expenditure of national money in the early voyages of discovery. We may remark here that Captain Scoresby's visit to the island of Jan Mayen afforded one of the most remarkable proofs of the existence of a communication between the Northern Sea and the Pacific Ocean. He found on the shores of that singular island, on which he landed, and which he partly explored, pieces of drift-wood bored by a *ptinus* or a *pholas*. Neither of these animals ever pierce wood in Arctic coun-



tries, and hence he concluded that the worm-eaten drift had been borne by currents from a transpolar region. The notion of a constantly open polar sea Captain Scoresby always believed to be chimerical, and at that time none of the observations had been made which have since led to the renewal of a belief in its existence. In speaking of the island of Jan Mayen, he mentions, as a striking proof of the clearness of the atmosphere in these climates, that he saw the peak of Beerenberg, the height of which is 6780 feet above the level of the sea, at a distance, by observation, of between ninety-five and a hundred miles. He also noticed, when on the island, on the summit of a mountain 1500 feet in height, a magnificent crater, forming a basin of 500 to 600 feet in depth, and 600 to 700 yards in diameter, while jets of smoke, discharged at intervals of every three or four minutes, revealed the existence of unextinguished volcanic action.

The scientific career of Dr. Scoresby in the latter years of his life is well known to most of our readers. The 'Edinburgh Philosophical Journal,' and various scientific periodicals, were enriched by occasional contributions from his pen on a variety of subjects of natural history and meteorology. To the observation of magnetical phenomena he had long devoted his closest attention, and his 'Magnetical Investigations,' published at intervals from 1839 to 1843, and the concluding volume in 1848, contain a vast amount of valuable materials for philosophical induction. His reports to the British Association, and his numerous observations on the influence of the iron of vessels on the compass, were connected with inquiries of the utmost practical importance to navigation. It was in prosecuting these researches, and with a view to determine various questions of magnetic science, that Dr. Scoresby undertook a voyage to Australia, from which he returned last year, with his constitution much enfeebled from the arduous labours to which he had subjected himself. His name will be ever remembered with honour among those who, by their character and their services, have sustained the reputation and extended the influence of the British name by the peaceful triumphs of science and humanity.

Dr. Scoresby was a Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, and a Corresponding Member of the Institute of France.

#### FLINT ANTIQUITIES.

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

Bridlington, 21st March, 1857.

SIR,—Having never written to you concerning the Flint antiquities or implements which I have found in this neighbourhood, and having seen in the 'Literary Gazette' (28th Feb.), the remarks made by Mr. Grove J. Chester, and Mr. Wright's reply thereto, perhaps you will have the kindness to insert these few remarks, which I think will be acceptable to members of the Society of Antiquaries, and others who may feel interested in the flint weapons and implements which are to be found in this immediate neighbourhood. I wish simply to enumerate the different kinds of implements and weapons which I have found within about eight miles of Bridlington; and, in doing so, I begin by naming the most simple and rude kinds, which are what I call Sling Stones, which are found in great abundance in the fields called Hunthow Fields. They are found in almost all shapes and sizes, and varying in weight from an ounce to a pound, and some exceed the pound. There are also flints which I call knives, drills, saws, hooks, pear-shaped spear-heads, and others shaped like the point of a lance; others like the blade of a penknife in size, and not unlike one of the round-pointed penknives in shape, and equally as sharp on one edge. I have also found two quite round flints, which are about the size of a child's ball. There are also some chisels and barbed arrow-heads, which have astonished every one who has seen them, they are so very finely made. I found one pear-shaped one and one barbed one this week, which are very good specimens indeed. This class of flint weapons vary in size from half an inch to six inches in length,

and some are most skilfully made, and others are equally rough, yet all of them are most strikingly of the same design; and no doubt the makers of these things would differ in skill in executing them, according to practice or skilful experience. I may here allude to a collection of flint implements found by Mr. George Pycock, of Malton, cabinet maker. That gentleman has made a collection of a number of barbed flint arrows, knives, spears, and one saw. I have found nine saws in six years, and John Vickerman, of Speeton, found three in one day, and my man found one this week, and I found two last week, one of which had been burnt, but the teeth are quite perfect. You cannot go into a field in this locality without finding some kind of a flint, and all of them show unmistakable evidence of the labour bestowed upon them.

I beg distinctly to state that my flints are all of my finding, or found under my own eye by my men or my friends, and that they are, at all reasonable times, open for inspection by any gentleman, being a member of any literary or scientific society, and having a recommendation or letter of introduction from any secretary of such society, &c. Hoping you will dispose of this to the advantage of your readers, I beg to remain, &c.

EDWARD TINDALL.

P.S.—On the other side you have outlines of my largest celt, as it is called, found three feet below the surface, in a garden, in South Back-lane, Bridlington, and of several others. I shall have great pleasure in sending my specimens for examination. I can assure both Messrs. G. J. Chester, Franks, Hawkins, and every one else, that they are what Mr. Wright represented them to be—genuine.

I have about 2360 specimens altogether of my own finding. I am not used to writing to newspapers, so hope you will excuse my bad writing and spelling.—E. T.

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE advantage of having a literary Chancery of the Exchequer, in the person of Sir George Cornwall Lewis, has been evinced in a signal and satisfactory manner. Sir John Romilly's scheme "for the publication of materials for the history of Great Britain" having been submitted to the Treasury, the assent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was readily given, and the Master of the Rolls, with this recommendation, will obtain the means required for carrying out his cherished design of publishing a selection of the national records. The idea of continuing the 'Monumenta Historica Britannie' on the original plan is wholly abandoned. In stating his objections to the system of collecting and editing all the documents relating to a particular chronological epoch, Sir John Romilly justly observes that such a collection is useful chiefly to the compiler, other students of history being expected to surrender their judgment to his discretion in the selection of the materials for publication. The time and labour expended are also enormous. It took above a century to complete twenty-one volumes of the French Recueil, the last of which appeared in 1855, and contained documents no later than the year 1328, or the beginning of the reign of Philip de Valois. The single volume of the 'Monumenta Historica Britannie' occupied the interval from 1822 to 1848. In the compression of historical materials, and rendering the substance of them more widely accessible, the system has advantages, but they are not worth the labour and cost, and these compilations do not satisfy the zealous student, who will still like to consult the originals from which the works have been derived. Sir John Romilly's plan is far more satisfactory and more practicable. He proposes that separate documents and records should be selected for publication without abridgment or mutilation, and without necessary reference to other papers relating to the same chronological epoch. The subject, he says, should not be considered as a mere antiquarian or black-letter undertaking, but as part of a national scheme for diffusing useful knowledge, calculated to throw a

great light on the history of this country. Editors will be selected for each work, having special qualifications for collating the manuscripts, and for supplying historical and critical information of practical use to the student. Brief essays illustrative of the period to which the record relates, and biographical notices of the writer, or explanations of the origin of the record, will further prove of service. The works will be published in separate volumes, but of uniform octavo size. Such is the substance of the proposals of the Master of the Rolls, which commend themselves strongly to approval. Instead of there being established a formidable historical Board, with commissioners, and clerks, and agents of circumlocution and jobbing, the Master of the Rolls will appoint editors, with the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury, to undertake special volumes on subjects on which they have previously shown literary competence, a plan which has been satisfactorily adopted in regard to the Calendars of the State Papers. This personal responsibility of authorship will give a far better guarantee for carefulness and diligence than could be attained by the publication of records under the vague authority of a public Board. Of the mode in which the Master of the Rolls would exercise his patronage, an earnest is given in his recommendation of Mr. Hardy to prepare a chronological catalogue of the materials of English history, a work of essential use for all future labours with regard to the conservancy, arrangement, or publication of the national historical records. A Parliamentary paper recently issued contains the whole of the correspondence that has taken place between the Master of the Rolls and the Lords of the Treasury on this important subject.

The Spanish poet Quintana, whose death was briefly announced in the last number of the 'Gazette,' was born at Madrid, April 11, 1772. He entered the public service at an early age, and was chief secretary for the translation of foreign documents to the Cadiz Cortes. Ferdinand VII. threw him into prison, where he remained six years, until the revolution of 1820 restored him to his former place. On the restoration of absolute government he withdrew into Estremadura, and remained in retirement till Ferdinand's death, when he again became secretary, and was subsequently made preceptor to the Queen, and senator. A few years before his death he was publicly crowned in the manner of Petrarch. His poetical works consist of two tragedies and two volumes of miscellaneous pieces. One of the most celebrated of his poems—certainly the most interesting to an Englishman—is his Ode on the Battle of Trafalgar. He also edited an admirable collection of Spanish poetry, and wrote a book ('The Lives of Illustrious Spaniards') which entitles him to the appellation of the Spanish Nepos. It has, we believe, been translated into English.

Scottish papers announce the death, on the 19th inst., of one of the most distinguished of the northern architects, William Henry Playfair. Among the proofs of his genius and art are the new buildings of the University, the hall of the Royal College of Surgeons, the monuments of Dugald Stewart and Playfair, on the Calton Hill, and many other architectural ornaments of the "modern Athens." Mr. Playfair was born in 1789, in London, where his father, a brother of Professor Playfair, was then residing. The elder Playfair was a man of considerable ingenuity, and by profession was also an architect. The son had the advantage of receiving his early educational training under the superintendence of Professor Playfair, who at that time had Lord John Russell also a resident in his house, having charge of his education at the University. Lord Cockburn, in the 'Memorials of his Time,' says, after noticing Stark, the leading architect of his early days:—"His mantle dropped on his pupil, William Playfair, to whom Edinburgh has been more indebted since, than to the taste of all other modern architects it has produced or employed. The earliest evidence of his talent was in his attempt to retrieve the fatal error that had nearly ruined our

college; and the purity of his Grecian taste has since been attested wherever it has had an opportunity of displaying itself. It is now to be seen conspicuously in every quarter of the city." Lord Cockburn's allusion to Grecian taste was written before the building of Donaldson's Hospital, Playfair's greatest triumph. Whatever may be said of this noble structure by the pedants of architecture, it is admitted to be an admirable specimen of the adaptation of the Gothic type to a domestic building on a scale of baronial magnificence. In Playfair's hands the Gothic *renaissance* assumed a dignity which no other architect of the time has surpassed. His latest Grecian edifices, the National Gallery and Royal Institution, lose effect from the lowness of the site on the Mound, but they also contribute to the adornment of the Scottish capital.

In a letter to the 'Manchester Guardian,' Mr. Harland, the distinguished Lancashire antiquary, comes forward with the following decisive confutation of a notion entertained by some on very insufficient grounds—that Shakespeare was a Roman Catholic. It appears that on the trial of the poet's friend and patron, Lord Southampton, for the share he had taken in Essex's conspiracy, the Attorney-General (Sir Edward Cope) charged him with being a Catholic. Lord Southampton's answer is thus reported in Howell's State Trials, vol. i., col. 1354. "And you, Mr. Attorney; whereas you charge me for a papist, I protest most unfeignedly I was never conversant with one of that sort; I only knew one White, a priest, that went up and down the town; yet did I never converse with him in all my life." Southampton's attachment to Shakespeare was, as Mr. Harland observes, far too well known for him to have made this assertion without contradiction, had his friend really been a Catholic.

Amidst the turmoil and excitement of the Parliamentary election in London, an event has quietly been transacted, of deep interest in connexion with the cause of education and social improvement. The opening of the new schools in the parish of St. Thomas, Charterhouse, Golden Lane, has been celebrated by a meeting, at which Prince Albert appeared, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, and delivered one of the terse, sensible, and appropriate addresses for which he is distinguished on public occasions. It must have been very gratifying to the Rev. Mr. Rogers, the founder of the schools, to learn how much his zealous and laborious efforts had attracted the approving notice of those most able to encourage and aid his undertaking. The sum of 1438*l.* was collected at the meeting, and 500*l.* more at a dinner, a few days after, at the Albion Tavern, Lord John Russell presiding. Mr. Rogers has since had an honourable recognition of his services, by being appointed one of Her Majesty's chaplains. The district of St. Thomas, Charterhouse, is one of the poorest in London, and from the prevailing class of its inhabitants it has been called 'Costermongria.' This is not a field where schools can be expected to spring up indigenously on the voluntary principle; but it has afforded a striking example of the way in which free offerings and public aid can work successfully together. Small weekly payments are received from the children, by which the spirit of independence is soothed, and the feeling of pauperism avoided; but the Privy Council dispenses with the ordinary regulations requiring a certain proportion of local revenue, and to this poor district has granted between 5000*l.* and 6000*l.* By similar liberality in other poor districts, the difficulties attending the national aid to education may be practically settled.

On the 15th of March, Dr. Büchh, a professor in Berlin, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary jubilee of his academic career in that University. On the eve of this festival an imposing number of the students, provided with blazing torches, appeared before the house of the professor, and presented him with an address. Before ten o'clock on the morning of the 15th, the street in which his house was situated, and the thoroughfares leading to it, were thronged with foot passengers and carriages, and

his house, until late in the day, was filled with ever fresh arrivals of those anxious to present their congratulations to the venerable professor. Amongst the public bodies which attended, the senate of the Academy was foremost, accompanied by deputations from most of the colleges of Germany; indeed, every university, from Königsberg in the extreme north, to Basle in the south, sent either a deputation or a congratulatory address. The King of Prussia presented him with the star of the Order of the Red Eagle (second class), with the figures 50 worked in the centre, and the Grand Duke of Baden (in which country he was born) the cross of the Order of the Zähringer Lion, together with an autograph letter. The town of Berlin gave him the freedom of the city, and the venerable Alexander von Humboldt wrote him (or caused to be written by his secretary) a long letter, giving many details of his own youth and struggles in search of knowledge. The most interesting part of the ceremony, however, was the presentation of a memorial on parchment, subscribed by the doctor's pupils and attendants on his lectures during the last fifty years. This idea was first started in the middle of January, and before the end of the first week in February the list contained nearly four hundred signatures—not from Germany alone, but from all parts of Europe. They represented students of every term from 1803 to 1856. Amongst them will be found men of all stations in life, and many who have acquired for themselves high reputations in the world. Those who are anxious to join in this address, and to subscribe money, have now become so numerous, that it is proposed to found with the sum collected an exhibition or scholarship in the university of Berlin, to be called after the professor, and to serve as a testimonial to the honour in which he has been held by all those who have had the advantage of his instruction. The subscriptions amount already to three thousand thalers. The memorial, which is on parchment, was prepared by Professor Bötcher, and bears upon it, in a circle of olive leaves, the following inscription in Greek:—

"Κάλλιστον, σοι Πάλλας ἀπεβραβεύερος ἔλαβας  
Πεντηκονταεὶς ἀντὶ διδασκαλίας."

Professor Büchh, though in his seventy-second year, seemed well and strong, and attended afterwards the dinner, which was given by about two hundred of his admirers.

In the last sitting of the Academy of Sciences of Paris, reports from two masters of merchantmen were read, stating that on the 30th December last the vessel of one was rudely shaken as by a shock of earthquake, in 10° south latitude and 21° 35' west longitude, and that of the other when under the equator, at 20° west longitude. The first vessel experienced several other shocks, though slighter, accompanied by a rumbling noise until four o'clock in the afternoon; the second only experienced one shock. The weather was perfectly calm at the time, the sea tranquil, and the temperature remained unchanged. After the reports had been repeated, M. Elle Beaumont, the geologist, remarked that it had long been supposed, from preceding observations, that a volcano existed in the Atlantic, at about the latitude and longitude mentioned, and that it was no doubt an explosion of it which had caused the sea-captains to imagine there had been an earthquake.

The Arnold prize for History at Oxford has been awarded to Robert Halcomb, B.A., of Brasenose College, the subject of the Essay being 'The Condition of Athens in the Time of Demetrius Phalereus.'

Mr. Emerson, it is said, is expected to publish, next autumn, a new work, entitled 'The Conduct of Life.' Report adds that he has another work in hand, treating of 'The History of Intellect,' which is understood to be regarded by himself as the most important of his literary labours.

Messrs. Blackwood and Sons are preparing for early publication the late Sir William Hamilton's Lectures on Metaphysics and Logic, to be edited by the Rev. H. L. Mansel, M.A. Oxford, and John Veitch.

The Albani library, one of the most valuable existing private collections, is to be sold at Rome in the course of the present spring or following autumn. The auction, which will take place as soon as the legal preliminaries are arranged, will occupy seventy-two days in the sale of the printed works alone. The Pope has given orders that the codices and all the valuable MSS. which throw light on, or are connected with, the archives in the Vatican, should be purchased for the state.

An auction of valuable books is to take place in Vienna, commencing on the 30th of March, under the direction of Herr A. Prandl, well known for his knowledge as a bibliographer. It consists in a collection of remarkable works, formerly the property of Herr von Rosthorn. The catalogue contains two thousand six hundred and fifty-four books, and numbers many rare and unique works. Amongst them may be mentioned, 'La Description de l'Egypte, ou Recueil des Observations et des Recherches qui ont été faites en Egypte pendant l'expédition de l'Armée Française.' It is in twenty-five volumes, and appeared in Paris between the years 1820 and 1830, under the superintendence of Monsieur Jomard. It contains one thousand copperplate engravings. The collection is also rich in manuscripts and old codices.

The Academy of Sciences of Paris has just lost by death M. Dufrenoy, Member of the Geological and Mineralogical Section, Director of the Museum of Natural History, Author of 'Recherches sur les terrains tertiaires et volcaniques d'Auvergne,' 'Recherches sur les terrains volcaniques des environs de Naples,' and of a work of extraordinary merit, 'The Principles of Mineralogy, Theoretical and Practical.' The Academy has also lost one of its correspondents of the Section of Rural Economy—M. d'Hombres-Frimas.

It is stated in letters from Egypt, received in Paris, that the Viceroy of Egypt has definitively dissolved the Commission of French, German, and English *savants* which was nominated some time ago to seek for the sources of the Nile. This measure has been rendered necessary in consequence of the positive refusal of certain members of the Commission, chiefly Germans, to act under the direction of the chief of it, a Frenchman.

The university of Pisa has just lost one of its oldest professors in the person of Tito Giuliani, who died a few days ago, at eighty years of age. The same paper announces that the municipality of Pisa had decided on erecting a monument in the Campo Santo to Madame Catalini.

Moscow letters announce the death in that city of M. Wossowolochski, an historian and naturalist of some note. He was eighty-five years of age.

From Florence we learn of the death of Professor Passerini, a member of an ancient Tuscan family, and one of the most celebrated natural historians and geologists of Italy in the present day.

Schiller's works are being now translated into Russian by Herr N. W. Herkel, and in a few days the first volume, containing the minor poems, will appear in St. Petersburg.

A monument is to be erected at Liège to Monsieur Dumon, the late celebrated Belgian geologist.

## FINE ARTS.

### SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

THE changes that have taken place during the past year among the British artists may be shortly described; their effects, however, upon the character of future exhibitions will be of some importance. Mr. E. S. Cobbett, whose figure groups have been extremely numerous of late, and are always attractive, has been elected a member; Mr. Wilson, sen., has been removed by death; and a new additional member appears in the person of Mr. J. Syer. This gentleman's exhibited pictures have been so few within the last three or four years, that he may be considered practically as a new contributor. The results of the year, brought about in part by these changes, are on the whole most satisfactory. The exhibition is very generally a pleasing one, though its strength depends less than



usual upon the efforts of tried and established artists, and rather upon the progress made by younger members of the Society.

A still more remarkable feature is the success which has been achieved by an artist unconnected with the body itself, whose name is not familiar to the frequenters of our galleries. Of Mr. E. Eagles we only know that he is, or has been, a student at Rome, and that he has produced in his picture, *Il Ritorno della Contadina* (153), a most decided triumph. At first sight, it is not easy to detect wherein the peculiar force of the composition lies. It will be found, perhaps, in the striking but natural manner in which the few leading circumstances are placed before the spectator, and in the careful attention that has been paid to the distribution of lights and shadows. The scene is of the simplest kind. A peasant woman, carrying her infant on a bed of flowers and grasses in a basket on her head, is wading over-ankle-deep through water, leading by the hand an urchin on her left. Her dress, partially raised, drags behind on the water, the smoothness of which is indicated by the long ripple that flows backward, and is more distinctly pointed out by the playful action of the boy, who dips his fingers in it as he runs by the woman's side. The breadth of composition, the admirable drawing, the skill shown in putting the true colour at the due distance, and the play of light and shade, combine to make this a most successful production.

Mr. Hurlstone's principal picture, *The Son of Louis XVI. under the tutelage of Simon* (128), yields to none in importance as an historical subject, of which it is in all respects an adequate rendering. No one surpasses the President of the Society in strength or nobleness of conception, and here the swarthy ferocious features of the republican artisan contrast dramatically with those of the delicate and saint-like child placed in his keeping. In all points the contrast between the young prince and his jailor is complete, the retreating figure of the woman, whose expression is somewhat doubtful and undecided, serving to harmonize the two other incongruous figures. No one but a composer of great experience could design in this artistic manner. The painting, moreover, of the implements of Simon's trade is perfect. At the same time the peculiarities of Mr. Hurlstone's colouring, with which all are acquainted, particularly in fair flesh tints, are not wanting here; and a feeling of crudity and harshness in some parts must be ranked among the defects of this work. *A Labrador of Valentin* (328), with great facility of drawing, shows more warmth and juiciness of colour, but this is a subject familiar to the artist. *Peasants of Murcia* (574) will also be recognised as old acquaintances.

Mr. Noble's contributions this year are of great variety, in some instances of no inconsiderable composition, and in all elegant and piquant. The incident from 'Walpole's Anecdotes of Painting in England' (24), where King Charles II. is represented seated at a table inspecting the Oliver miniatures at the house of the artist's widow, is the most important. The King discovers himself plainly enough to the spectator, however unknown at first sight to the widow Oliver. A due disposition of parts, appropriate attitudes and dress, and pleasing light and colour, are points of this picture which, though they call for no especial commendation, contribute to an agreeable result. *Burchell and Sophia* (318) is less satisfactory as a whole, the figure of Sophia being alight, and that of her admirer not without clumsiness; but the air and feeling of the group nevertheless have their charms. Among the smaller subjects—heads and single figures, we may notice *A Florentine Flower Girl* (357), with keen bewitching eyes; *Ennui* (403), an elegant figure, studied with the most loving detail, particularly in the exquisite reflected lights round the recumbent arm; and, best of all, the beautiful figure, *The Correspondent* (324).

Mr. Woolmer occupies the same post as formerly, presenting the same peculiarities of subject and of treatment in all his varieties as on former occasions. Who does not remember the massive beech stump overgrown with ivy, and the inter-

lacing boughs overhead, in *The Children in the Wood* (214)? If any change is to be remarked here, it is to be found in a closer adherence to the true forms of trees, and in an imitation of natural flowers in the foreground, which add to the effect. This is the most effective picture among the artist's contributions this year. *The Delights of Summer* (36) contains as many as nine figures, loosely robed, so as to conceal possible spinal curvatures or other departures from perfect anatomical arrangement. But the earth is golden and glorious, and the sky beams through the tree stems in floods of blue, so that the whole effect is romantic and dreamy, however removed from the realities of existence in any age or climate. *Fraternal Affection* (329) is a peculiar experiment. A background of sky relieves the two figures grouped together in front, whilst the landscape, properly so called, is extended on the right and left. This subject is in the style of Mr. Woolmer's Florences of old, with the same stone pines and other tree foliage fading away in bright distance. *Le Papillon* (176) and *The Toilet* (105) are the merest repetitions. In (77), however, the same dumpy lady becomes *The Gardener's Daughter* of Tennyson: the whole merit of the scene is confined to a gay tone of colouring, and a richness produced by an aggregation of details that gratify the eye, though they are mannered, and often unnatural in the extreme.

Of Mr. Baxter's three subjects, *The Dream of Love* (444) is that which attracts most admiration, for the careful and regular beauty of the features. Power of expression cannot be ranked among the prominent qualities of this head; but everything that can be accomplished by refined drawing, and elaborate pains in colouring, has been bestowed on this subject. *Heartsease* (52) is a deviation from Mr. Baxter's pink-and-white style of beauty, and is rather an improvement on that account.

To the groups of Mr. Cobbett we have already alluded. *The Scene on the Hastings Coast* (143) is one of the prettiest of these. *Reg, Sir* (206), represents a very charming couple; and we scarcely know which to admire most, the animal or its lovely little mistress. *Caught by the Tide* (484) is another attractive scene. Mr. Cobbett has never been so strong as in this his first appearance as a "British Artist."

Amongst the figure subjects that are conspicuous for careful and exact treatment is Mr. Roberts' *Sick Boy* (86). The arrangement of the scene reminds one irresistibly of Mr. Wallis's *Chatterton* of last year's Academy. Here there is a double square garret window, with a distant view of London roofs and chimney tops, and a bed stretched in front of it, whereon lies the invalid; but here, moreover, there is a watchful and tender nurse, with the remedies and appliances appropriate to sickness, and, better still, good hope of recovery. Every part of the picture shows traces of deliberate care, and it is equally well painted throughout. In the scene *A Tender Chord* (332), all that is wanting to complete the success is a little more firmness on the part of the painter. Delicacy of sentiment and truth of nature, along with accurate delineation, are present, but an uncertainty of touch gives vagueness to the forms and conceptions.

Of Mr. Salter's large picture from *Othello* (187), it is difficult to speak except with doubtful satisfaction. The great attention which has been bestowed upon it has succeeded only in producing imperfect excellence. Besides a good deal of formalism in the figures, some of the drawing is uncertain, part of the colouring raw and uneasy, and the ornaments of the palace chamber are poor and trivial; yet each of the above defects has a corresponding merit in the same scene. The figure of *Gratiano* is venerable, and that of *Othello* natural and dignified.

Mr. T. Clater has some excellent groups, among which may be mentioned *The Mouse in Danger* (28) and *The Smugglers' Cave* (298), both interiors. The latter, however, is of the stereotyped arrangement common to Teniers and his followers. In the remaining group (194), the figures do not come up to our anticipations, the woman is not old enough

for a grandmother, and the boy too big for the childish request he makes.

More successful and amusing is Mr. Pidding's *Angling for a Dinner* (285). There is true humour and character in every figure of this group; it is worthy of one of Walter Scott's conceptions in this particular line. *The Novel* (339) represents a girl sitting and reading by fire-light, a good subject for the painter, well and forcibly treated.

Little variety is to be remarked in Mr. Zeitter's groups, they are as sketchy, hazy, and picturesque as ever. *A Halt at the Toll Bar, Altenau* (93), is one of the most distinct and intelligible of these compositions.

In landscape, it need only be remarked that Messrs. Boddington, Clint, West, and J. J. Wilson, show little change or variety. The several style of each is one and unalterable, *quod semper, quod ubique*. Mr. G. Cole, though he repeats himself almost as frequently, has acquired more force by reducing the size of his landscapes, and condensing their features into a smaller compass.

Mr. Pyne contributes only two subjects, which show little novelty in point of style. *Puffin Island* (114) displays some beautiful bits of half distance, and a sun setting in a paste of yellow paint, which is not light, though it indicates the source of it. *The Brown Conway* (239) is remarkable in subject, the colour of the stream being of the tawny or chesnut tint described by Scott. In this case the fall looks more like the plumage of a bird's back than a sheet of water. But the study is new and curious.

Mr. Pettitt has been not only among the rocks of North Wales (195) and (254), but on the Moselle (309) and in Savoy (121 and 346). The English scenery is that which is most forcibly rendered.

Mr. Wainwright continues his imitations of Cuyp in the *River Scene* (131), and his favourite study of flat reaches of alluvial lands in the scene from *Essex Marshes* (420).

*On the Trent* (231), by Mr. J. C. Ward, is not without his peculiarities of hardness and heaviness of touch, and is brown in tone, but yet is a powerful landscape.

In the picture called *Return from Jack-Fishing* (31), Mr. Tennant has introduced a sunny, glowing landscape; and the *Picnic Party* scene (204) is enlivened by gay figures, and is full of life.

Mr. J. Syer's landscapes will be observed with great interest. *Near Trefriew, N. Wales* (64), is remarkable for an extent of plain, coloured with great sweetness and variety, and backed by mountains. *The Scene on the Llugwy* (434) will also attract admiration.

Among the subjects which combine landscape and figures not by members of the Society, we must not omit two very attractive drawings by W. D. Kennedy—*Innocence* (101), simply the half-figure of a girl crossing a stream of water; and *Waiting for the Ferry Boat* (190), which sparkles with attractive forms, gay lights, and flashing colours. Of *Lucy Ashton* (437) it is difficult to speak so favourably, as the figure, the attitude, and the expression are quite removed from ordinary conceptions of Walter Scott's heroine.

The engravings for the current year, to be issued to the members of the Art Union of London, have just been published, and will doubtless before long become abundantly familiar to the public at large. One of these is *The Clemency of Cœur-de-Lion*, engraved by Henry C. Shenton, after a painting by John Cross. The wounded monarch, lying on his couch, is ordering his attendants to unfetter and unbind the assassin, who has been seized after wounding the king in the attempt to take his life. One man is striking irons off the prisoner's legs, whilst another severs the cords that fasten his wrists. The bystanders express various emotions,—a knight who stands near the entrance appears astounded at Richard's forbearance; another, sitting by the bed, glares with fury upon the prisoner, who himself can scarcely believe the truth, or understand the motive of the order he has just heard.

In the background an ecclesiastic is raising his hands in the act of benediction, as the spiritual recognition and reward of the king's meritorious act. All this is told simply and plainly: the merit of the composition, therefore, proves itself. Nor do we find that the natural expressions and movements of the figures are overlaid by armour and accoutrements, as is too often the case. The picture is respectable as a production of art, if not of very imposing excellence; and it has been treated with an adequate amount of skill by the engraver. The work is one of fair average merit. The second plate is called *The Piper*, engraved by Edward Goodall, after a painting by Frederick Goodall, A.R.A. The scene is a cottage interior, the door open, through which the afternoon sunlight falls gently. Against this breadth of light the figure of the piper is placed in relief, as he sits upon a stool near the door. Within are the members of the family,—an old woman holding an infant (contrasted), a grown-up daughter (the prominent figure), and a boy and girl. The tender simplicity and pastoral tranquillity of the scene is such as might be expected from the painter, all the points being of course fully rendered by the engraving. This will no doubt be a favourite subject.

The colossal statue of the *Madonna*, commemorative of the immaculate conception, was cast at the Vatican foundry on the last day of January, in the presence of the Cardinal-Secretary of State, and a great concourse of ladies and gentlemen, ecclesiastics, magistrates, and artists. The metal, which weighed about twenty thousand pounds, had been approaching to fusion about twelve hours previous to the operation. A religious ceremony was performed, at which visitors were requested to take off their hats during the litany to the Virgin. The metal was poured from the huge crucible to the sound of the "Ora pro nobis," vigorously chanted by the priestly choir. On breaking up the mould the casting was found to be satisfactory, though not without some slight flaws.

The dedication of the new altar-piece of the church of Saint Catherine, in Hamburg, took place on the 2nd of March. It is a beautiful structure, and well worthy of the great commercial mart of Germany. It is in the Gothic style, and is raised forty feet high. The table of the altar is of marble, and above it rises the support of the baldaquin, beautifully worked with roses in white sandstone, bordered by a cornice of thistle leaves. The baldaquin is carved, in oak of the natural colour, with figures of our Saviour, Moses, and the four evangelists, with their peculiar attributes, in lime-tree wood, on a gold ground, relieved by arabesque patterns.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

A PLAY in four acts, by Mr. Bayle Bernard, recently produced with success at the Haymarket, possesses one quality which is always found in that gentleman's productions—originality. The construction, however, is evidently suggested by the French *drame*, which it emulates in the ingenuity of its expedients, and the striking disposition of its situations. The name of the play is *A Life's Trial*, and the division into four acts is judiciously adopted in obedience to the demands of the action. The story presents four distinct phases, and each act closes with a *coup de théâtre*. As a matter of stage skill, this design is entitled to commendation; but the scaffolding is too apparent. It is well to get structure; but there is a higher art than that of structure—that of concealing it. Now, in this play, the effects are produced by means which are as obvious as the effects themselves; the machinery, indeed, is so palpable, and so unerring in its operation, that, once it is put in motion, we can calculate pretty accurately on its results, and should be disappointed if they did not happen exactly as we anticipate. The ability, nevertheless, with which the incidents are built up, the well-sustained interest of the plot, and the good taste and truthfulness of the dialogue, leave

the audience in no disposition to examine very critically the sources of so much legitimate entertainment. The main thread of the story may be briefly indicated. The daughter of a banker, whose affairs are involved in a general panic, is engaged to a lover, who, having some property in the West Indies which he hopes to make available for her father's benefit, is induced by a rival to set sail suddenly on a voyage thither. The rival takes immediate advantage of his absence, assists the father, and wins the hand of the daughter. This ends the first act. At the end of three years we find the husband a confirmed gambler, reduced in circumstances, with misery and distrust in the household. The lover has returned wealthy. He hears that the lady has been deserted and left in poverty. He hastens to succour her, out of a generous impulse. The husband confronts them in the midst of a scene of very touching interest. A duel in the true French spirit ensues upon the spot, without witnesses, the wife having been sent out of the room. The husband's pistol misses fire, and his antagonist refuses to take his life. At this moment, a friend rushes in and counsels the husband to fly, there being a pursuit after him on account of a forgery. He makes his escape, still menacing his opponent with a future revenge, and the lover, rejecting the appeal of the wife, who now appears upon the scene, rather inconsistently abandons her to destitution. Seven years now elapse, during which intelligence has arrived of the death of the husband in America. In the meanwhile, the lover and the lady, who has come into a fine property by one of those miracles which are known only on the stage, have met again, and are about to be united, when the husband, haggard, starved, and in danger of his life, rises between them like an apparition. This brings us to the end of the third act. In the fourth act, we find that the husband, supplied with money by his wife, at whose house he dare not appear openly, has tempted his rival into a gambling house, and under an impenetrable disguise ultimately effects his ruin. The last scene is the gambling house, where this issue is to be finally accomplished; but the wife, to whom he has exultingly revealed his plans, is on his track, the police rush in, and the forger is seized. He evades justice, however, by committing suicide. Expectation had been so highly raised, and the preparations for the catastrophe so elaborately laid, that this scene, hurried and meagre, grievously disappoints the audience. It is the only passage in the whole play that fails to satisfy the curiosity and interest its progress excites. Unfortunately, too, it occurs in the most dangerous place at which a disappointment could happen. To break down at the end of a piece successful up to the close, is to risk the fate of the entire work. In this instance, luckily, the audience were not ungrateful for three acts of skilful dramatic action, and bore their disappointment graciously. There is a comic plot which interludes the serious interest very successfully, affording excellent opportunities for the display of the contrasted humours of Messrs. Buckstone, Compton, Rogers, and Clark. The heroine was played by Miss Reynolds, who imparted to the character that conventional colouring with which the *habitués* of the theatre are familiar. The husband and the lover were acted by Mr. Howe and Mr. W. Farren, who acquired fresh claims to popularity by the force and discrimination of their performances. The cast comprehends nearly the whole strength of the company; and the piece has been "mounted" with a diligence of research and a splendour of illustration which look like an invidious attempt to distance the glories of the Princess's. In the midst of this accuracy of detail, why is there not a little more attention paid to costume in the first act? Why does Mr. Howe, who is described as a yachting man, pace the beach at Tenby before dinner in a dress coat?

A version of the French piece, *La Fille de l'Avare*, under the title of *Daddy Hardacre*, produced at the Olympic on Thursday evening, affords scope for a display of Mr. Robson's genius, in a kind of character less familiar than those in which he has

achieved his reputation. *Adam Hardacre*, the principal figure in the drama, is a typical specimen of an old miser, whose master passion does not, however, exclude fond love of an only daughter, as long as this affection leaves untried his selfish covetousness. The play is in two acts, and its story is too trite to be worth repeating in detail. A London banker, whose sister had been the wife of the miser, sends his son, *Charles Clinton* (Mr. Vining), to *Adam*, or *Daddy Hardacre*, as he was called on the country side, with a letter, of the contents of which the bearer was ignorant. The letter tells that he is on the point of ruin, and that he has sent his son out of the way, as he intends to kill himself the next day. What use there is in this preparation for suicide does not appear, nor is it stated that the letter is a ruse in the vain hope of moving the generous aid of his miserly brother-in-law. The miser's daughter *Ether* (Miss Hughes), having read the letter, and being deeply touched by her cousin's anguish on learning its contents, takes from the miser's hoard a bag of gold, and starts one of her rural admirers off to London in time to save her uncle. *Charles* also hastens back to town, but is arrested and brought back, his abrupt departure, at the moment of the loss being discovered, having led the miser to conclude that he was the robber of his treasure. The crisis of the play is when *Ether* acknowledges her guilt, and declares her motives. The horror, the rage, the desolation of the old man on the first discovery of his loss, the tumultuous conflict of passion when he curses his daughter, yet cannot tear away his rooted love for her—all this scene Mr. Robson sustains with a power of wonderful dramatic intensity. The comic sides of the miser's character, in which he had before ludicrously displayed his love of gain, with a vanity of cunning shrewdness, especially in his business transactions with his lawyer (Mr. Cooke), are delineated by Mr. Robson with equal genius and art. By a multiplicity of touches of character, many of them trifling in themselves, the picture of the miser is made to stand out in strangely impressive boldness. The part of *Ether* by Miss Hughes is an excellent piece of acting, quiet, unaffected, and well sustained. The adaptation of the piece by Mr. Palgrave Simpson is of ordinary merit. An English version was formerly produced at the Olympic, during Mr. Farren's management, and the French piece was played at St. James's Theatre, when M. Bouffé had the part of the miser.

A new play, in four acts, called *La Fiammina*, has obtained brilliant success at the Théâtre Français at Paris. The subject of it is somewhat to this effect:—A cantatrice of great popularity, disgusted with the modest duties of wife and mother, abandons her husband and child, and places herself under the protection of an English nobleman, *Lord Dudley*. The afflicted husband teaches his son to believe that his mother is dead. Years fly away, and the husband is thrown into accidental communication with *Lord Dudley*, and the erring mother sees her son, but from fear of disgracing him, dare not, as she fain would do, clasp him to her breast. The son learns that she is his mother, and with burning indignation challenges those who cast reflections on her virtue, but they, knowing his relationship to her, refuse to fight with him. He determines to challenge *Lord Dudley*; the lord, who knows not that he is the son of his mistress, but suspects it, declines to meet him. The mother, in dismay at the idea of her son and lover fighting on her account, and not knowing the refusal of the latter, takes the extreme measure of going to her husband to entreat him to save their son. The husband reproaches her with the dishonour she has brought on both; and while he is so doing the young one comes in, rushes to his father's arms, and disdains to look on his dishonoured mother. Stung to the heart, the wretched woman is plunged into despair, and after a most painful scene, she announces that she will pass the remainder of her days in solitude as an expiation for her guilt. And so the play ends. The piece is of great dramatic interest, and some of the scenes produce profound



emotion; it is also written with great spirit, and the characters are well conceived, well drawn, and somewhat out of the conventional stage type. The English lord in particular is quite an astonishing creation in a French drama; he is represented as a perfect gentleman, with nothing at all ridiculous about him. Perhaps, after all, what has contributed as much to the success of the play as its real merits, great though they undoubtedly are, is that its author, M. Mario Uchard, tells in the piece, as all Paris well knows, somewhat of his own history, he being the husband of a *Fiammina*, an actress who is estranged from him. Strange to say, though he has attained brilliant success, he never before figured as an author, and he has all his life exercised a profession which is about the very last in which one would expect to find a dramatic poet—that of a stockbroker!

The season of the Royal Italian Opera is to commence at the Lyceum Theatre on Easter Tuesday, the 14th of April, the same evening as the opening performances at Her Majesty's Theatre. Madame Grisi and Madame Bosio, Mario, Lablache, and Gardoni are among the leading *artistes* in the list of engagements which Mr. Gye is shortly about to announce.

Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, one of the three oratorios selected for the Festival this summer at the Crystal Palace, was performed for the first time this season at Exeter Hall, last night, by the Sacred Harmonic Society. Last Friday, the choral rehearsals for the Festival commenced at Exeter Hall, a selection having previously been made from the host of volunteers who proffered their services for the occasion. Mr. Costa has the entire control of the musical arrangements for the Festival, which under his auspices has every prospect of a triumphant success, in spite of the sneers of some of the German journals, which profess surprise at the presumption of England in taking so prominent a part in doing honour to the great composer. The story of Handel's life is the best answer to these criticisms and insinuations; and as this country was the adopted home of Handel, and his generous patron when alive, it has good claim to take the lead in doing honour to his memory.

The reappearance of Madame Ristori and her troupe at Paris is advertised for the 2nd April.

#### LEARNED SOCIETIES.

**METEOROLOGICAL.**—*March 24th.*—S. C. Whithead in the chair. The following gentlemen were elected members:—W. G. Armstrong, Esq., F.R.S.; H. S. Eaton, Esq.; H. W. King, Esq.; C. L. Bradley, Esq.; and S. L. Howard, Esq. The following papers were read:—'On the Meteorology of Sinope,' by Mr. Radcliffe, being observations made in November and December, 1855, and January, February, March, and April, 1856.—The position of Sinope is on the neck of a peninsula, the general direction of which is from north-west to south-east; it is 42° 2' 2" north latitude, and 35° 12' 15" east longitude. During the series of observations, rain fell on forty days, snow on twenty-two, and hail on five. It was observed that there was a general correspondence between the barometric variations and the changes of temperature, the barometer reading falling as the temperature was rising, and the contrary—the former increasing, and the latter decreasing. There were seventeen remarkable depressions of the barometer; perhaps the one most worthy of especial notice was on the 27th of November, when in a few hours the reading of the barometer fell to the amount of half an inch. These sudden changes were of brief duration, and generally accompanied by rapid changes of the wind; and it appears that they originated on the coast, and were propagated more or less out at sea. The winter of 1855 and 1856 was regarded by the natives as a mild one; but from its position, sheltered as it is from the north-east wind, Sinope enjoys a very equable temperature; and it appears that the summer is cooler, and the winter warmer, than those of adjacent towns on the coast. This statement is borne out by the

experience of the inhabitants. February and March are the most severe months of the year, and when passed, April develops itself with fine weather, and May bursts forth with a heat, verdure, and splendour scarcely surpassed by an English summer.—'On the Photographic Effects of Lightning,' by Andrés Poe, director of the observatory at Havana. The first (though not the earliest) authentic mention of this singular phenomenon was made by Benjamin Franklin, in 1786, who frequently stated that about twenty years previous a man who was standing opposite a tree that had just been struck by a thunderbolt, had on his breast an exact representation of that tree. A similar case is mentioned by the 'Journal of Commerce,' New York, on the 26th of August, 1853.

"A little girl was standing at a window, before which was a young maple tree; after a brilliant flash of lightning, a complete image of the tree was found imprinted on her body. This is not the first instance of the kind." M. Raspail, in 1855, has also mentioned another instance. He says that a boy having climbed a tree for the purpose of robbing a bird's nest, the tree was struck, and the boy thrown upon the ground; on his breast the image of the tree, with the bird and nest on one of its branches, appeared very plainly. M. Olioli, a very learned Italian, brought before the Scientific Congress at Naples the following four cases of impressions made by lightning. In September, 1825, lightning struck the foremast of the brigantine *St. Buon Sirco*, in the bay of Arniro; a sailor sitting under the mast was struck dead, and on his back was found an impression of a horseshoe, similar even in size to that fixed at the mast head. On another occasion, a sailor standing in a similar position, had on the left of his breast the impression of a number 44, with a dot between the two figures, being in all respects the same as a number 44 that was at the extremity of one of the masts. On the 9th of October, 1836, a young man was found struck by lightning. He had on a girdle, with some gold coins in it; these were imprinted on his skin in the same manner they were placed in the girdle; thus a series of circles with one point of contact was plainly visible. The fourth case happened in 1847. Mrs. Morosa, an Italian lady of Lugano, was sitting near a window during a thunder-storm, and perceived the commotion, but felt no injury; but a flower which happened to be in the path of the electric current was perfectly reproduced on her leg, and there it remained permanently. Mr. Poe concluded this part of his paper by an instance mentioned by him in his 'Memoir on Lightning Storms in Cuba and the United States.' On the 24th of July, 1852, a poplar tree in a coffee plantation being struck by lightning, on one of the large dry leaves was found an exact representation of some pine trees that lay at the distance of 339 metres (367 yards 9 inches). As to the theoretical explanation of lightning impressions, Mr. Poe thinks that they are produced in the same manner as the electric images obtained by Moser, Riess, Karster, Grove, Fox Talbot, and others, either by statical or dynamical electricity of different intensities. The fact that impressions are made through garments is easily accounted for when we remember that their rough texture does not prevent the lightning passing through them, with the impression it has received. To corroborate this view, Mr. Poe mentioned an instance of lightning falling down a chimney, and passing into a trunk, in which was found an inch depth of soot, which must have passed through the wood itself. Mr. Glaisher, on the recent hailstorms, stated that the hailballs were of a pyramidal shape, and consisted of aggregations of partially crystallized snow. The storm was not very general, being much less severe in the north-west of London and in the county of Suffolk. These facts were corroborated by remarks made by Mr. W. Smyth and Mr. Symonds. Reference was also made to the recent remarkable high readings of the barometer at Boston, United States, having on the 10th of February attained the height of 31.125 inches. Admiral Fitzroy brought before the meeting a new

thermometer constructed by Messrs. Negretti and Zambra, for registering the temperature of the sea at great depths.

**ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—*March 11th.*—T. J. Pettigrew, V.-P., in the chair. Mrs. Kerr was elected an Associate. Mr. Syer Cuming read notes descriptive of numerous rings exhibited by Mr. Corner, Dr. Iliff, Mr. Wills, and Mr. Gunston. They were chiefly Roman and mediæval, but also some of later date and peculiar, embracing zodiac, decade, betrothal, and signet rings. They were derived from various localities—the Thames, different parts of the City, &c. Mr. Ainslie exhibited the umbo of a Highland target, discovered in the Thames, near Westminster-bridge; it was of latene, and had been originally gilt, measuring three inches in diameter. It probably belongs to the middle of the sixteenth century. Mr. Ainslie also exhibited the stems of two drinking glasses found in Cannon-street, giving fine illustration of the oxidation of glass from having been long buried in the earth. Mr. Burnell exhibited a leaden seal, found in Lombard-street, Chelsea; and Captain Tupper two commissions, one signed by Oliver Cromwell, the other by Sir Thomas Fairfax. They bore date 1645 and 1650, and were appointments of an ancestor of Captain T. Mr. Pettigrew exhibited a beautiful drawing, made by the Hon. Miss Eden, and forwarded by Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells, of a pastoral staff, found in the precincts of Wells Cathedral, in the time of Dean Lukin. It has been conjectured to have belonged to Savaricus, bishop from 1192 to 1205. The substance of the head is of Limoges enamel, and the various dragons composing the head are studded with small turquoise and other stones. St. Michael is represented vanquishing the dragon. A massive gold ring was found with it, the stone in which is a pink topaz, and it is drilled through to admit the passage of a hair or fine thread to secure it to the finger. Mr. Corner exhibited the head of a Roman statuette of marble, found in the Thames near the site of the old London Bridge. If not fine, it is yet of good execution, and the marble is like that of the quarry of Vaudelet. The subject is a youth with prominent lips, and the hair is parted down the middle from the forehead to the occiput. Mr. Forman produced the head of a Roman labarum, a most rare and beautiful object. It is perfect, and no doubts as to its genuine character were entertained, though its history is unknown. Mr. Forman also exhibited an exquisite bronze figure, an Etruscan warrior, measuring thirteen inches in height. Mr. Pettigrew read 'Notes on the Vicar's Close at Wells,' and exhibited drawings of its peculiarities. The remainder of the evening was occupied in a discourse by Mr. Temple, Chief Justice of Honduras, on some curious antiquities brought by him from Central America. They excited great attention, and Mr. Temple promised to draw up a particular account of them for the Journal.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—*March 9th.*—Sir Roderick I. Murchison, President, in the chair. Colonel P. Anstruther, C.B., Captain W. Eastwick, the Rev. Dr. Elder, the Right Hon. Lord Falkland, Commander F. K. Hawkins, R.N., Dr. E. Hamilton, M.D., Captain Jenkin Jones, Colonel the Hon. W. L. Pakenham, the Lord Bishop of St. David's, Sir Justin Sheil, K.C.B., the Earl of Shelburne, Sir W. Fenwick Williams of Kara, Bart., and R. Sinclair Aytoun, E. G. Culling Eardley, Thomas Gillespy, W. B. Greenfield, G. W. Lennox, W. B. Long, J. C. Marshman, and A. Swanzy, Esqrs., were elected Fellows. The President announced that a letter had been just received from Captain Richard Burton, announcing his arrival at Zanzibar, on the east coast of Africa, and his intention to proceed as speedily as possible for the interior in search of the Great Lake. The papers read were—1. 'On the Geography and Hydrography of South-West Africa,' by Dr. James Campbell, R.N. 2. A paper from the journal of the late Captain Hyde Parker, R.N., 'On the Outlet of the Great Zam-

besi, communicated by Captain John Washington, R.N. It commenced by stating that Quillimaine is not the grand outlet of the Zambesi. The entrance is about two miles broad, and distinguishable by a bluff of high, straight trees. The bar at the mouth is formed by two series of sandbanks, breaking completely across at low water. Within the points the river widens, and then contracts again. The rise and fall of water at this mouth at spring tides is about twenty feet, and vessels could easily get in at that time. With all the conveniences offered for traffic, however, there is none carried on along the river, the Portuguese not being sufficiently enterprising to avail themselves of the numerous facilities to be found there. In the rainy season the Zambesi frequently overflows its banks, making the country for a considerable distance one great lake. The waters subside, however, in about eight or ten days. An extensive village was to be found a short distance up the river, and a great deal of land might be found in a good state of cultivation. A considerable quantity of wild cotton also grows along the coast, but none whatever is cultivated. The land generally is most fertile, producing almost everything with but little trouble. The influence of the tides is felt twenty or thirty miles up the river. The most beautiful cattle are to be found along the coast—elephants, hippopotami, lions, antelopes, and other animals are abundant. The natives are an intelligent race, and under a better government this fine country might become extremely valuable. Captain Parker had only been able to proceed about seventy miles up the country, but from what he saw of it he considered there were no obstacles to civilization, or to the navigation of the river Zambesi at certain seasons of the year.

**ZOOLOGICAL.**—*March 10th.*—Dr. Gray, F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. Schlater read a paper containing descriptions of some apparently new species of American ant-thrushes, which he characterized under the following names:—*Formicarius trivittatus*, *Conopophaga castaneiceps*, *Hypocnemis elegans*, *Myrmeciza hemimelanota*, and *Formicivora hamatoma*. The Secretary read a paper 'On the species of Crocodilus inhabiting the rivers Kwóra and Binu (Niger and Tsadda), in Central Africa,' by Dr. W. Balfour Baikie. Among the zoological collection which Dr. Baikie made during his visit to the rivers Kwóra and Binu, in 1854, were several skulls of crocodiles, varying in length from fourteen to twenty-six inches. A careful comparative examination of these showed them all to be possessed of similar characters. In various prominent points they resembled *C. marginatus*, yet in proportional measurements they approach more nearly to, while not altogether agreeing with, *C. vulgaris*, showing that in many characters they are intermediate, and thus either lowering these two into mere varieties, or, as Dr. Baikie believed more probable, establishing for themselves specific characters. They showed the crocodile from the Binu to be proportionally longer than *C. vulgaris*, and much more so than *C. marginatus*. Dr. Baikie added a few other general characters derived from these skulls, and stated he had compared them with twelve others of Indian and American species, from all of which they were quite distinct. The Secretary also read a paper, by Mr. R. F. Toomes, 'On Four undescribed Species of Bats,' which were characterized under the following names—viz., *Scotophilus pachyomus*, *S. pumiloides*, *Vespertilio chinensis*, and *V. Blythii*.

**STATISTICAL.**—*March 17th.*—Lord Stanley, President, in the chair. The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., and E. W. Brabrook, Esq., were elected Fellows of the Society. Dr. Farr read a paper 'On the Pay of Ministers of the Crown.' The author began by stating that in the middle ages the services of the officers of the crown were recompensed by grants of land, which, though mostly made for life in the first instance, gradually became hereditary. The great offices of Lord

High Treasurer and of Lord High Chancellor were held by clergymen under the Norman kings, and for some centuries afterwards, the first lay Treasurer, William Scrope, Earl of Wiltshire, being appointed in 1398, and the first lay Chancellor, Sir Thomas More, in 1530. The author then quoted a passage from Macaulay's 'History of England,' vol. i. chap. 3, which described the facilities for acquiring wealth possessed by the great officers of state in the seventeenth century, and which he considered to be in accordance with facts. A Select Committee of the House of Commons inquired into the salaries and emoluments of offices held during the pleasure of the Crown. From this it appeared that Lord North, in 1780, received 11,500*l.* a year—viz., 5000*l.* as First Lord of the Treasury, 2500*l.* as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and 4000*l.* as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Mr. Pitt received the same amount; Lord Liverpool received 9000*l.* in 1812, as did Mr. Canning in 1827. Lord John Russell, who made these statements in his evidence, also said that, up to the beginning of the present century, sinecure offices were usually granted to some member of the minister's family, and that, besides the fixed salaries, the ministers received fees of office. Since 1830, the salary of the First Lord of the Treasury has been 5000*l.* a year, except in 1834-5, when Sir Robert Peel held with that office the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a salary of 2500*l.* a year, it having been usual for the two offices to be held by the Premier, if a Member of the House of Commons. The average tenure of office is three and a quarter years, the tenure being uncertain during four or five years, and firmest from the seventh to the twelfth. The author had ascertained the ages of thirty-two ministers, and the periods during which they held various high offices; and from this he calculated that if a person aged twenty-one could purchase these salaries, and make three per cent. of his money, the salary in the office of First Lord of the Treasury would be worth 7432*l.*, those in the offices of Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Admiralty 6803*l.*, and those in four other offices 1492*l.*, making a total of 15,727*l.*; whereas the value of an annuity of 5000*l.* for life would be 104,930*l.*, or nearly twenty-one years' purchase, and that of a perpetuity 166,667*l.*, or more than thirty-three years' purchase. In point of fact, for the last century it has been disadvantageous, in a pecuniary point of view, to hold the Premiership. The United States have been held up as an example of the expediency of paying low salaries to the great officers of State; the President receiving 25,000 dollars, and the six Secretaries of State, the Attorney-General, and the Paymaster-General, 8000 dollars each. But this parsimony is not without its disadvantages. "It is ruin to a professional man without fortune," says Miss Martineau, "to enter public life for a time, and then to be driven back into private life." It must also be remembered that the members of the two Houses of Congress are paid for their services, and receive an allowance for travelling expenses: 292,000*l.* sterling were paid on these accounts in 1856-7. Dr. Farr exhibited a table showing the professional incomes of twenty-four of the leading barristers, judges, and ministers; the totals amount to 182,000*l.*, 132,874*l.*, and 75,283*l.* respectively. He also remarked that a retiring pension was seldom, if ever, received by a minister of State. The consequence of this state of things is, that men of abilities in the middle classes are unable to enter on a political career, although politics should be made a subject of study, and occupy the whole time and attention of public men. The remedy proposed by Dr. Farr was to pay somewhat higher salaries, and to provide retiring pensions after a certain term of office.

**ETHNOLOGICAL.**—*March 11th.*—Sir Benjamin Brodie in the chair. Mr. W. F. Ainsworth read a paper of considerable length and interest on the history and race of the people residing in the neighbourhood of ancient Nineveh, called Yezidis or Yezidis, who have occupied a considerable portion

of Layard's attention in his last work. Mr. Ainsworth compared all that had been written on the subject, by Layard and other writers, with his own researches, and his own personal knowledge of the people and the country they inhabit. The object of his paper was to show the great probability that the Yezidis are the actual descendants of the ancient Assyrians, whose monuments have of late years excited so much interest. It is a singular circumstance that the Yezidis have from time immemorial attached themselves with remarkable tenacity to a particular locality, which the excavations of modern times have shown to have been the head seat of worship of the ancient Assyrians. Mr. Ainsworth pointed out a striking resemblance of form, feature, and even the manner of wearing the hair, of the modern Yezidis to those of the monumental Assyrians, while many of the more characteristic practices of the ancient Assyrians still prevail amongst them. They preserve a remnant of pure Sabæanism in the worship of the sun, and of Sabæanism, as corrupted by the Parsee followers of Zoroaster, in the worship of fire; and they preserve also the particular worship of the cock or nergal of the Cuthites, as also of the tynges or demon-birds of the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Chaldeans, in the malik-taus or king cock. They also reverence the evil spirit to a degree amounting to worship. Mr. Ainsworth not only described fully the modern condition and manners of this people, but examined the fables as well as the historical facts relating to them. In the course of the discussion which followed the paper, a Mr. Ameun, a learned Syrian now in England, gave a very interesting account, from his own personal acquaintance with them, of a settlement of Yezidis at the village of Salahiyyeh, near Damascus. Mr. Ainsworth observed that it was a very remarkable circumstance that this place is the only locality in Syria in which Assyrian remains have been found. In fact, near the village there is a mound of ruins called Tel-es-Salahiyyeh, from whence the Rev. Mr. Porter obtained a bas-relief representing an Assyrian priest, ('Five Years in Damascus,' vol. i. p. 383.)

**CHEMICAL.**—*March 16th.*—Dr. Miller, President, in the chair. Mr. J. W. Dent was elected a Fellow, and Messrs. J. Spiller and E. O. Brown Associates. Mr. J. Spiller read a paper 'On certain Circumstances tending to Disguise the Presence of various Acids and Bases in Chemical Analysis.' The author showed that the presence of an alkaline citrate in solution prevented the precipitation of sulphuric acid by a baryta salt, save by the adoption of certain precautions, and in a similar manner interfered with other reactions in very general use.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.**—Royal Institution, 2 p.m.—(General Monthly Meeting.)  
Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.—(On certain Methods of Dividing the Surplus in Life Assurance Companies; and on the Rates of Premium which should be required to render them Equitable. By T. B. Sprague, Esq., M.A.)  
**Tuesday.**—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Huxley on the Principles of Natural History.)  
Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.—(Renewed Discussion on High-Speed Steam Navigation, &c.; and, if time permits, a paper will be read on the Permanent Way of the Bordeaux and Bayonne Railway across the Grandes Landes, by Mr. F. E. Conder, Assoc. Inst. C.E.)  
Chemical, 8 p.m.—(Anniversary Meeting.)  
**Wednesday.**—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.—(Rev. W. Rogers on the Trade, Habits, and Education of the Street Hawkers of London.)  
Pharmaceutical, 8 p.m.  
R. S. Literature, 8 p.m.  
**Thursday.**—Royal, 8 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Sound.)  
Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Tyndall on Sound.)  
Antiquaries, 8 p.m.  
Museum of Geology, 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen on Fossil American Mammals of the order Bruta or Edentata.)  
Photographic, 8 p.m.  
Artists and Amateurs' Conversazione, 8 p.m.  
Philological, 8 p.m.  
**Friday.**—Royal Institution, 8 p.m.—(Rev. J. Barlow on some Modifications of Woody Fibre and their Applications.)  
Archæological Institute, 4 p.m.  
**Saturday.**—Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Prof. Huxley on the Principles of Natural History.)  
Medical, 8 p.m.  
Museum of Geology, 2 p.m.—(Professor Owen on the Pliocene and Pleistocene Mammals of Australia.)

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—A Reply to Critics: A Grateful Recipient of the Lit. Fund Bounty; L. T. C. S. S.; N. P. received.



## CONCHOLOGY AND GEOLOGY.

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STREET, LONDON.—Notice is hereby given, that the Books for the Transfer of Shares in this Society will be re-opened on WEDNESDAY, the 8th day of April next.

The Dividends for the year 1856 will be payable on and after MONDAY, the 6th day of April next.

By order of the Directors,  
WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, *Actuary*.

## THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

of the Directors of the MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, together with the CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET for the year 1856, showing the state of the Society's affairs on the 31st of December last, as presented to the General Meeting on the 18th of February, 1857, will be delivered on a written or personal application to the Actuary, or to any of the Society's agents in Great Britain.

CHARLES INGALL, *Actuary*.  
MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES,  
33, King Street, Cheapside, London, E. C.

## NORTH BRITISH ASSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED IN 1809.

Incorporated by Royal Charter and Act of Parliament.

The Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Proprietors of the North British Assurance Company was held in the Company's Office in Edinburgh on the 2nd March, 1857, ANDREW COVENTRY, Esq., in the Chair.

A Report by the Directors on the Business of the Year 1856 was read to the Meeting, showing that in the LIFE DEPARTMENT, New Policies were issued, insuring the sum of £274,274, and paying in Annual Premiums £3061 14s. 9d.

The Accumulated Fund amounted to £664,692 13s. 11d. The Annual Income from Life Premiums was £116,816 13s.

In the Annuity Department, the sum of £12,196 19s. had been received for Annuities granted during the year 1856, and the Annuity Fund now amounted to £112,447 12s. 6d.

THE ANNUAL PROSPECTIVE OR INTERMEDIATE BONUS was extended to all Participating Policies that may be effected before the 31st December next.

The following SHAREHOLDERS were then elected President, Vice-Presidents, and Directors for the current year:—  
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[ESTABLISHED 1841.]

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